# LETTERS

OF THE

COUNTESS DU BARRÉ.

R formard de Vantiermer (ill.) Courte p du Barry

# LETTERS

OF THE

### COUNTESS DU BARRÉ;

WITH THOSE OF THE

PRINCES, NOBLEMEN, MINISTERS OF STATE,
AND OTHERS, WHO CORRESPONDED WITH HER,

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF ENTERTAINING AND INSTRUCTIVE

#### NOTES,

Elucidating the Causes of the principal Events of the latter Years of the Reign of Louis XV.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

#### LONDON:

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MDCCXCII.

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### ADVERTISEMENT

BY THE TRANSLATOR.

THE following Letters develope, in an interesting manner, the polished villainy of Court Intrigue, and that fatal system of PRO-FUSION and OPPRESSION, which, in the latter part of the reign of Louis XV. hurried France to the brink of destruction, and at length brought the affairs of that kingdom to the crifis which gave birth to the present Revolution. The French Patriots have been reviled, even to a degree of execration, by the ADMIRERS of DESPOTISM. This Collection of Letters might alone serve as an apology for the National Affembly, were any apology necessary for the GLORIOUS labours of that PATRIOTIC BODY.

Nov. 21, 1791.

# ADVILLISIMENT

# BY THE TRANSCATOR

THE following Laters develope, in an instructing transacty the politiced willning of Court-Inteless; and that fast lythem of the private and openantation, which, in the later part of the reign of Louis XV. harried for part of the reign of Louis XV. harried fraces in the brink of deficultion, and at length amount the hillsies of that kingdom to the crafts which we the hilliest with the hilliest of the kingdom for the crafts which the free prefer the prefer the action to a degree of executions have been revised, even to a degree of execution, but another the action of Louisis and the Amount the court of the Mational Affenthly, were any appearance of that the prefer the execution of that the transaction radio.

Mor. 21, 1701

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# FRENCH EDITORS.

been happily preferred in the Collection has a

THE elevation of Madame du Barré astonished all France, perhaps too all Europe it is, indeed, without example, that a person
of obscure birth, without education, without morals, without talents, who had made
her first essay as a courtezan under the roof
of the most celebrated procures in all Paris\*,
who afterwards walked the street St. HoNORE, the THUILLERIES, and the Gardens
of the PALAIS ROYAL, should, at length,
reach the good fortune of being presented to
the King; should please him, seduce him,
become his declared Favourite, turn out the
Prime Minister who displeased her +, his

\* La Gourdan.

† The Duke de Choiseul.

A 2

fifter

fifter who shared the Royal bed \*, maintain a post of so much splendor, choose the Ministers herself, make them grovel at her seet, see the Princes of the Blood on their knees to her; and be, during the latter part of her Royal Lover, the sountain and the channel of all savour and all emolument.

The concatenation of intrigues which concurred to bring about this revolution, has been happily preserved in the Collection here given of the Letters of that Sultana, and of part of those which were addressed to her.

There the Reader will see the heroine, whose character was that of frivolity and levity, set her affection only on Pleasure, Expence, and Decoration: he will there see her the enemy of political intrigue, and yet compelled to deliver herself up to it; at first following blindly the counsels of the only man who was capable of directing her; then submitting to be ruled by those whom she had brought into Administration, and who, requiring her assistance to enable them to keep their places, made her move at their pleasure, and conformably to their interests.

<sup>.</sup> The Duchess de Grammont.

She will be found to have a benevolent mind, like most women of her description; fond of obliging her friends; entertaining a sovereign contempt for treachery and ingratitude; in proportion as the reader advances into her history, he will become inclined; if not to esteem her, at least not to dislike her; to interest himself in her sate, and even to be sorry for the troubles which besall her.

Weak Prince, at all times an enemy to bufiness, ever undetermined, remaining in a state of inaction, and never capable of deciding when two different plans of conduct are proposed to him. The Reader will there see a Monarch wearied with voluptuousness, yielding himself up to the most contemptible debauchery, dishonouring himself in the eyes of all his subjects, of every foreign court, and at length terminating a life of shame and disgrace, to the great joy of a whole people, that, in a new reign, deserves the relief, and, perhaps, the end of its calamities.

The Reader will there see a knave and a traitor, the First Officer of the Law, take a pleasure

pleasure in overthrowing it; employing for that end the most shameful and iniquitous means, oppressing and grinding the whole kingdom of France, keeping the Princes of the Blood at a distance from the Throne, and giving cruel wounds to his country, the effects of which she will feel for centuries yet to come.

In the course of this correspondence, the Reader will remark another artful Courtier, abominated by a province which he had crushed by a hideous despotism, ready to suffer from the sword of justice the chast-tisement his crimes deserved, on a sudden lifting up his head in a manner the most extraordinary, and taking advantage of the ruin of the Parliament, to obtain, by means of the Favourite, admittance into the Council, and the two most important departments of the Ministry.

The Reader will there see the Chief Officer of the Finances impoverishing the people with accumulated imposts, reducing the property of private persons to one half, destroying the King's credit, and maintaining himself in his post, by continually pouring into the hands of the Favourite, and of his creatures. creatures, all the specie of the kingdom, and all the riches of the State.

The Reader will there see all those robbers tearing one another to pieces, and endeavouring each to grasp the whole authority of the Sovereign.

In fine, the Reader will there see the Princes of the Blood, weary of no longer obtaining favours from the Monarch, and stimulated by personal interest, forgetting their protestations, bending forcibly under the yoke of their tyrants, assiduously paying court to the Favourite, deserting the cause of the people, assisting those inhuman Ministers in their oppressive operations, and partaking with them in the pillage of the monarchy.

We have taken the greatest pains to collect Letters so interesting, and which may serve for the history of the latter years of the reign of Louis the Fisteenth; but, at the same time, that the Reader may have nothing lest to wish for, we have thought it seasonable to subjoin some historical notes, which are extremely interesting, in order that he may become acquainted with the train of certain events which are mentioned in some of these these Letters. The facts there stated, are attested by every Courtier, and none can doubt of their authenticity.

But, perhaps, it will be faid, how could the private and fecret correspondence of Madame du Barré with the Duke d'Aiguillon, the Chancellor, the Abbé Terray, and their answers, be procured; a correspondence which they were interested in burying for ever in the most prosound oblivion. Without entering into any detail upon the means which we have employed to procure such important writings, we shall content ourselves with saying it was amongst Madame du Barré's own papers that we found them.

We are in hopes that this work will contribute to satisfy the curiosity which the public ought to feel to know what were the hidden springs which so long moved the machine of government, and the causes which produced the most interesting events of this century. These advantages appeared to us sufficiently considerable to compensate for the style, which is not always as slowing as it might be. Being only the Editors of these Letters, we were of opinion that it did not become us to make any alterations.

LETTERS

#### LETTERS

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## COUNTESS DU BARRÉ.

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### LETTER I.

To M. BILLARD DE MONCEAU\*.

Community of St. Aure, June 10, 1758.

MY DEAREST GODFATHER,

I WRITE you these lines, that I may have the honour of being informed of your state of health, and at the same time to let you know, that all that has been told.

\* Madame du Barry is daughter to M. Gomart de Vaubernier, Commissioner of Excise, at Vaucouleurs, where she
was born in 1744. M. de Monceau, who happened to be
there at that time, and who was Purveyor of the Victualling
Office, lodged at the house of the Director of the Excise. He
was requested, along with the wise of his host, to be sponsor
for the child of the Sieur Gomart de Vaubernier, an office which
he accepted. Mad. du Barré was named Maria Jeanne.
After the death of the Sieur Vaubernier, his widow, finding

B herself

you concerning me, is not true, with all deference to you, good Sir. Madame the Superior told you that I read naughty books, and that I made the other pensioners do the same. On the contrary, it was Mademoiselle Reville who had them from her cousin, and who shewed them to us. As for me, I refused to read them, and faid it was not proper. However, I have read them, because all my companions had read them, and wished me to do so too. This is all the fault that I have committed, my dearest god-father. As for the figure of St. Therefa that was torn, I can affure you that it was not I; and I know not which of my companions it was that did it. I wish that our Lord may grant you many long days of prosperity, and that you would come to fee me. I confider you as if you were my

herself in a destitute condition, went to Paris with her daughter, in the hope of getting a place in some samily, as cook or house-keeper. Her first step was to call upon M. Du Monceau, to whom she presented his god-daughter. That gentleman gave the mother some money, and placed the little girl in the Community of St. Aure, which was under the direction of the Abbé Grisel, confessor to the nephew of M. Du Monceau.

father,

father, and love you equally as well. I am, with all possible respect,

My dear, dear God-father,
Yours, &c.
MANON VAUBERNIER,

to bickers shounders.

#### LETTER II.

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To MADAME RANÇON \*.

lintale feinergen and June 3, 1768.

YOU know, my dear mother, that I have had here many causes for complaint, and undergone many mortifications. I should never have thought that a man whom one does not love, could gain so powerful an ascendant over one, as the Count has over me. However, fince I last saw you, things

were

The mother of Mad. du Barré married a person of the name of Rançon, who had a small employment in the revenue. It was in the year 1768 that the daughter went to live with the Count du Barré, at which time she assumed the name of Lange.

were carrried to such a length, as to determine me to part from him. For this purpose I had written to a man, who seemed to have an affection for me. This person, though of a disposition to sacrifice every thing to present enjoyment, dreaded the consequences of an arrangement in all the usual forms, and hesitated to take charge of me. I was embarrassed with respect to another choice, when an event as fortunate as it was unexpected, made me change my resolution, and has rendered my connection with Du Barré closer than ever. I have not time to enter into a circumstantial detail, This only I can tell you, that M. Le Bel, one of the King's valet de chambres, and confidant to his Majesty, is to dine here to-day. The Count has been speaking of me to him, and you may eafily guess what issue is likely to attend this interview, and what are our designs. It is while waiting for M. Le Bel that I write you these few lines. Let us rejoice, my dear mother. Though, as yet, nothing has taken place, I cannot help indulging the most flattering expectations. The Count makes me pass for his fifter-in-law, and I am well prepared

pared to play my part. But I hear M. Le Bel's coach: I quit you, in order to receive him. Adieu, my dear Mother.

and millions to his Most Christian Anticony,

VAUBERNIER LANGE.

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eyes, to be certain that you are thereverity

To Lamet, at London \*.

Hasticonia Hol

Compiegne, September 3, 1768.

I HAVE received your letter, my dear Lamet: it is a miracle that it came to my hands, after the different changes which have happened in my fituation; luckily it was sent from Mad. Le Garde's to my mother, who forwarded it safely. You propose my joining you at London, where you give me to understand I may expect a splendid establishment: but whatever I might expect amongst your English lords,

This Lamet was a hair-dreffer, with whom Mad. Du Barré had cohabited for some time at Paris,

is furely not equal to what I enjoy at prefent, and what I had never dared to hope for.
You little suspected when we lived together,
that you had in your possession a woman on
the point of becoming a person of quality,
and mistress to his Most Christian Majesty.
I think I see you staring, and rubbing your
eyes, to be certain that you are thoroughly
awake, as you read this. And yet, my
poor friend, nothing is more true. I have
espoused, for form's sake, a fat Count du
Barré, and am this moment at Compiegne,
where I exercise, in their sull extent, all
the sunctions of Sultana Favourite\*. It is
unnecessary for me to warn you to be secret:

She was married the first of September, 1768, to William du Barré, brother to him who had kept her. Le Bel, who had presented her to the King, at first told that Monarch that she was married to a man of quality. But the valet had no notion that the King would become so seriously attached to her. Apprehensive, therefore, that his Majesty might be informed of the truth by others, and that his own disgrace would follow, he threw himself at the King's feet, and told him, that Mad. du Barré was neither married, nor a woman of quality. "So much the worse," cried the King, "let her be married then immediately, that it may become an absolute impossibility for me to play the fool." In a week after, the marriage was solemnized.

you must be sensible of what importance it is to us both not to blab. To stop your mouth, then, and to make you some indemnification for the thousand crowns I cost you, you will find here annexed a bill for a thousand pounds sterling. It is drawn payable to bearer, so that you will not be obliged to tell your name, in order to receive the money. You see, that in spite of all my grandeur, I am still good-natured. Do not write to me, till I have informed you in what manner you may do it safely. I rely as much on your discretion, as you ought to rely upon my friendship, and on the defire which I feel to give you proofs of it.

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### LETTER IV.

#### FROM COUNT DU BARRE'.

Paris, September 9, 1768.

YOU see yourself, my dear sister-in-law, at the highest point of elevation to which you could aspire. But, in order to keep that post, you must observe the greatest circumspection. With the King, in private, be always gay, airy, full of life and spirits; but in public, assume the most modest, the most reserved manners, in short the manners of the Court. In order to attain these, there is no occasion for haughtiness: on the contrary, you must shew the greatest politeness and affability to every one, particularly to the women. Confider that they are all envious of your lot, and that there is not one amongst them, who, while she professes the highest friendship for you, does not secretly defire your downfall. Endeavour by all means possible to gain over the Duke de Choiseul to your party: he is an allall-powerful Minister, and makes his Master do what he pleases. Write to me every day. To avoid provoking persons in office, I shall remain at Paris, and shall seldom go to Court. You know that I am the only friend you have: so let me have the most minute details of every thing respecting you.

I am your brother and friend, &c. I

saider, that I need not all anadyledly.

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SHTTHI

To Count Du Barre.

October 15, 1768.

are, with craticale,

HIS Majesty, my dear brother-in-law, still preserves the same attachment to me; he is delighted with the court that is paid to me; but I am not at all pleased with the behaviour of the Duke de Choiseul: he shews a marked contempt for me. His sister, the Duchess.

Duchess\*, is quite furious at the fight of me: whenever she looks at me, it is with eyes full of vengeance and hatred. I think I can never be brought to love that woman. It is said that she and her brother have had ill-natured songs made on me. Shall I complain of it to the King? You are more in the way of knowing what passes here, than I am. What must I do? I wait for your answer, that I need not act unadvisedly. I am, with gratitude,

My dear brother-in-law, Your fister and friend, &c.

The Duchess de Grammont was the most intriguing of all the female courtiers. She was haughty, imperious, and carried her thirst of sway to such a pitch, that she held her brother in subjection, and did what she pleased with him.

if Ith Majesty, my dear brother in-law, still proceed the sense attachment to and the its still disputed with the court that is part in early but I am not at all plotted with a locality state of the Dube de Choifed: he there a transfer of the Choifed: he there a transfer as the consequent for me at Ea. They are

LETTER

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#### FROM COUNT DU BARRE'.

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income desirable flow see swelling consili Paris, October, 16, 1768.

LET us conduct ourselves, my dear fister, with the utmost prudence. Since we cannot gain over the Choiseul party, let us not do any thing that might give them the upper hand. If, after having tried every thing to conciliate their favour, we find we cannot succeed, then, in ruining them underhand, we shall do against them what they, at this moment, are doing against us. But let us remain on the referve, and not attempt any bold stroke, without having first formed a party sufficiently strong to counterbalance theirs.

I fend you two lifts, which you may confult every moment; the one will make you acquainted with all the partizans of Choifeul: their number is formidable. Be extremely on your guard, and always preserve a fair appearance towards them.

C 2 Listen Listen to no suggestions that may come from that quarter, to engage you to take some step which would lead to your certain ruin. Endeavour to win some of their creatures to our party, but repose no real confidence in them, until we are well affured that we may rely on them. The fecond lift contains the names, of those who are either dubious, or fecretly the enemies of the Choiseul party. Let your whole exterior evince your favourable disposition towards, them, and all your interest be employed to make friends of them. I cannot too often repeat to you, that you must inform me punctually of every thing which embarraffes you, and upon which there will be time enough to receive my answer. In cases of very preffing emergency my fifter will be your guide. (a) of goods of the inful young a

Your elevation, one may fay, has been the effect of chance: but reflect that you cannot maintain that station without following implicitly the plan which I have marked out for you, and that you run the greatest risk in departing from it for a moment. Thus, in spite of your aversion for politics

and

and intrigue, know that they alone can support you. I am not at all surprised at what you tell me concerning the conduct of Mad. de Grammont towards you. No woman ever yet pardoned her who supplanted her. Certain as I am that you have gained the King's affections. I even wish that the Duchess would carry her insolence still further; and her imperious and jealous character will undoubtedly hurry her into fome excess, which cannot fail of proving as destructive to herself, as it will be favourable to our cause, especially if her brother be so weak as to let himself be governed by her. Should you come to Paris on Saturday, as you think of doing, I will tell you more than I commit to paper, though my letter is already a very long one. I am,

My dear fifter, &c.

P. S. I forgot to mention, that I knew before you did, that they had lampooned you. It is clearly the work of the Choiseul party. Nevertheless, do not speak of it to the King; for, if he is ignorant of the matter, you might aldanos al en

might, in feeking redrefs, only excite his currofity, which it might be dangerous to gratify.

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# LETTER VII.

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### To THE DUKE DE COIGNY.

Paris, January 11, 1769.

I HAVE received your letter of apology, my Lord, and willingly grant your pardon. I have a good heart, which never harbours rancour; but you must learn to be always more circumspect in your behaviour to pretty women; there is some respect due to them \*.

\* The circumstance which occasioned this letter, is pleafant. The Duke de Coigny had known Mad. Du Barré, when she lived with the Count, under the name of Mademoiselle Lange. He afterwards went to Corsica, and returned some time after the marriage of Madame Du Barré. He was told that she then lived in the street des Petits Champs. He slies thither, and by accident finds her there. He accosts her with his usual familiarity, attempts to take her in his arms, and, in short, treats her as a nymph of easy virtue. The lady, to get rid of his importunities, assumes

I wish you a good day, and am, my Lord, very truly,

Yours, &c.

affumes a serious air, and informs him that she is married. "So much the better," replies the Duke, "we shall have one pleasure more, in making another man a cuckold." Madame Du Barré, sinding that she could no longer impose on him, was obliged to ring the bell, and order her fervants to tell those of the Duke, that their master was going. The latter, much surprised at this reception, went to Count Du Barré, and told him what had happened. The Count informed him, that she was now the King's mistres; which forced the Duke to write to Madame du Barré, in order to apologize. We could not find this letter; it was not among those papers which were seized, when Madame Du Barré was exiled to the Convent of Pont-aux-Dames.

Add to the mich protect decided with

We but rop piciply the betted and perions bottle Choicean party. They have not only given birth to their indecent happoens on your limits to their indecent happoens on the city and at Court, but they are more intimate than ever with the Reyal family, which they are enterforming to render, as likelihoofed to you as they can, by partiug you as the blackest colours of calculations and calculations of the point and colours of calculations and calculations and calculations and calculations of the point and calculations.

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#### 55 LETTER VIII.

I with you a good day, and any my Lords.

#### FROM COUNT DU BARRE'.

April 17, 1760 feet field the could no longer

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THE Choisen party, my dear fifter, will always have the upper hand, as long as you are not presented at Court. You must pofitively obtain that favour. The Courtes de Bearn has promised us that she will be your god-mother on this occasion. Her own critical fituation will remove all obstacles that might present themselves. We fee but too plainly the hatred and jealoufy of the Choiseul party. They have not only given birth to those indecent lampoons on you, which have been circulated through the city and at Court, but they are more intimate than ever with the Royal family, which they are endeavouring to render as ill-disposed to you as they can, by painting you in the blackest colours of calumny and scandal. As you are more than ever in the King's good graces, you have no other part

to take, than to throw yourself in tears at his feet, and conjure him by all the friendship which he bears you not to leave you any longer exposed to the injurious attacks of your enemies, and to permit, nay to give orders for your presentation. You will add all that your own interest and your attachment to the King may fuggest to you at the moment. This last resource will prove the most efficacious. See and take this step before the and of the weeks employ all the warmth and energy of which you are capable, in order to move the King. It is my fincere wish, that the first news which I receive from Court may be, that you have gained your point, I am ever your affectionate brother, and the truest friend you have in the world. Hiw it as yound as bill a head has t

" ablo." Ab! not dear fifter-in-law, how firthe you know the Court! Be affored that what will hances to you, will be confiaement in a coayent for the remainder of your days, with a metablion to lee any one whatever. Add to this, that you will be very looky if you are not exen off by philon.

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to takey than to throw yourfelf in tears at his

#### FROM COUNT DU BARRE'.

for your prefentation. You will and

inanificatia anoy bes Moros Paris, April 12, 1769.1

A Conversation which you have had with my fifter, and of which the has given me an account, alarms me. You fay, " All thefe em-" barrassments distract me beyond patience: "what is the worst that can happen to " me? Should the King abandon me, I will " quit the Court, and with what he has " already given me, and the pension which of " course will be added, I shall always have " fufficient to make a figure in the world, " and lead a life as happy as it will be agree-" able." Ah! my dear fister-in-law, how little you know the Court! Be affured that what will happen to you, will be confinement in a convent for the remainder of your days, with a prohibition to fee any one whatever. Add to this, that you will be very lucky if you are not taken off by poison. I fay no more to you on the subject; this will

will suffice to frighten you. Burn this letter; I refer you to that which I wrote yesterday. Follow my last advice as speedily as possible.

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# LETTER X.

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FROM COUNT DU BARRE'.

Paris, April 23, 1769.

YOU see, my dear sister, what good counsel I have given you, by the effect which it has produced. You are then presented, in spite of all the cunning of the opposite cabal. This event, in proclaiming the sull extent of your empire over the King\*, must naturally intimidate our enemies, render them more circumspect, diminish their number, and sensibly augment that of our partizans. But be not the less upon your

<sup>•</sup> Mad. Du Barré was presented on the 22d of April, 1769, by the Countess of Bearn.

guard in every respect; watch yourself confantly with the most scrupulous attention, and, above all, be exceeding careful that, in the midft of your usual freedom, no expression escape you, no indiscreet pleasantry, which might afterwards be made a handle of to injure you in the opinion of his Majesty. If you have committed any imprudence of this kind, choose a favourable opportunity to inform the King of it yourfelf, with those graces and that gaiety which are so natural to you, and by means of which you have captivated him. If you conduct yourself in this manner, he will only laugh at a circumstance, which perhaps might inspire him with an aversion to you, were it related to him by persons disposed to do you mischief. By thus preventing them, you will make the mischief fall with double force upon themselves, and will expose their malevolence in its full point of view. Undoubtedly you find my admonitions very minute: but, frequently, things in appearance the most indifferent, may be attended with poplequences of the most ferious nature. Obliged as I am to direct you, not only as to present

present events, but likewise with respect to those which may happen, it is possible that, amongst the number of my counsels, there may be some which you will have no occasion to make use of. Nevertheless, I still pursue my plan; fince there is no danger in telling you too much, and there may be a good deal in not telling you enough. Your fituation, the vortex of pleasures, by which you are burried away, and your own natural levity, may betray you into indifcretions against which it is effential to forewarn you. Placed behind the curtain, I judge better of things than you can yourfelf, and your own experience may tell you that I am clear fighted. I am ever, with the fame friendship, my dear fifter,

The second of the second secon

was awarn tell state.

Yours, &c.

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#### To MADAME LA GARDE \*.

gantlat ni negania on si medi 2000 : 1000 yan Tanb book and ann 230 Nerfailles, May 30, 1769.

I AM forry that I was not at home, Madam, when you took the trouble to call on me. You have no need to ask my protection; it was an acquisition you had already made, and you may reckon upon that, as well as upon my esteem.

ore they bea distribut I am, &c.

\* Old Madame la Garde, with whom Madame Du Barré had lived in 1764, received, in the month of May, 1769, a visit from the latter in the greatest pomp, doubtless to humble the pride and self-love of that old fool, and also from some slight motive of vanity. Madame la Garde returned the visit, and not having found Madame Du B, at home, lest a card with the Swiss, to let her know that she had come to ask her protection.

LETTER

#### LETTERTXII

TO THE COUNT DE STAINVILLE.

amon womom of the pointing to May 317 1769.

I HAVE received your letter, my Lord, and answer it with the more pleasure, as I can, at the same time, announce to you that his Majesty grants you the reversion of the government of Strasburg, and that I myself was the solicitor. You see by that how far I am from being angry with you. I am much flattered by the sentiments which you profess to entertain for me. If the Duke and Madame, your fister, thought as you do, we should be the best friends in the world; it is not my fault that we are not so.

i CANNOT fulficiently bank you, Maismi, for your goodness, your completifuce, and your attention. I should think I shund them, if I did not immediately restore you them.

fants as types.

DOT.

I am, &c.

to that liberty which you love, and of which

#### LETTER XIII.

#### FROM THE KING.

INSTEAD of waiting till to-morrow, come this evening: I have fomething to tell you that will give you pleasure. Good day: be assured that you are beloved by

his i with a gridus you the reversion of the

#### LETTER XIV

was the folicitor. You ree by that new far

much flattered by the fentiments which you profess to entertain for the state the Duke

To THE COUNTESS DE BEARN.

.obo .ma T

June 2, 1769.

I CANNOT sufficiently thank you, Madam, for your goodness, your complaisance, and your attention. I should think I abused them, if I did not immediately restore you to that liberty which you love, and of which you

you have fo long deprived yourself on my account. That would be exacting too much from your friendship. You have several times acquainted me with the difgust which you experienced in a region for which you were better calculated than I am, and where, nevertheless, we have both, in some fort, made our first appearance together. You have business which summons you to Paris. The excursion to Marli once over, I request that you will not put any constraint on your inclinations. Go to the Luxembourgh to enjoy ease and leisure, and abandon me to the hurry of Versailles. But rest persuaded, that I shall never forget you, and that I am, while I have life, Madam,

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sergence of the week of the service of the service

to a despetition as the desired expension,

Yours, &c.

### LETTER XV.

To M. DE MAUPEOU, CHANCELLOR.

SIR,

July 6, 1769.

d in brad o

I KNOW nothing of your laws. They are unjust and barbarous: they are contrary to sound policy, to reason, to humanity, if they condemn to death a young woman delivered of a dead child, and who omitted to declare that circumstance\*. According to the memorial here annexed, the supplicant is in this predicament. It appears, that she is condemned only for having been ignorant of the law, or for not having conformed to it through a degree of modesty extremely natural. I refer the examination of this affair to your equity: this unhappy creature surely merits some indul-

gence.

The person here alluded to, was a young woman of Liancourt in Picardy, who had been debauched by the minister of the parish. M. de Mandeville, of the Black Musqueteers, upon hearing her case related, ran immediately to Marli, where the Court then was, and presented a memorial to Mad. Du Barré,

gence. I request of you, at least, a commutation of the punishment; your own sensibility will dictate the rest. I have the honour to be, &c.

> glory, to have arrowed. It have fell destal effor affair to be the arrivaled.

#### LETTER XVI.

FROM M. DE MAUPEOU.

MY DEAR COUSIN \*,

July 6, 1769.

I CANNOT tell you how much pleased I am at your having given me an opportunity of convincing you of my perfect devotion to

\* M. de Maupeou, the better to secure the good graces of the King, seeing that the Du Barté family wished to consider themselves as allied to a noble samily in England of the name of Barry, and to which he said he himself was related, gave Mad. Du B. no other title than that of Cousin, which gave singular pleasure to his Majesty. The Chancellor carried this adulation to an excess. One day, when he went to pay his respects to Mad. Du B. all the company rose up in compliment to his dignity: "Do not disturb yourselves, gentlemen," said he, "it is only a family visit."

you: I shall seize such as present themselves with a degree of zeal, which will never fuffer you to doubt, a moment, the fincerity of those sentiments which I esteem it my glory to have avowed. I have just now ordered that affair to be superseded, in which you have interested yourself so earnestly. As foon as the papers relative to the proceedings are laid before me, I shall make out a pardon for the prisoner. It would not be feemly in the head officer of the law, to approve in open terms your declamations against those laws, which the duties of his station oblige him to see observed. I cannot, however, my dear cousin, avoid agreeing, that they would be infinitely superior to what they are at present, had they been dictated by fo enlightened and benign a genius as yours. You give a splendid proof of it in the humanity you shew to-day, and I should not have needed this new instance of your fenfibility, to be convinced that our Royal Master could not make a more glorious choice. Adieu, my adorable cousin; remember always that your flightest wishes shall be to me as so many commands.

I am, with respect, &c.

LETTER

#### LETTER XVII.

FROM M. DE MAUPEOU.

MY DEAR COUSIN,

Marly, July 8, 1769.

THE accused has just received her pardon. What acknowledgments ought I not to render you, since I may flatter myself with having been, on this occasion, inspired by a beneficent divinity!

The Harmonia Comment

Iam, &c.

resign and regular responsible of

### LETTER XVIII.

### To COUNT DU BARRE'.

July 20, 1769.

I AM more than ever, brother, in the good graces of the King. The Duke de Richlieu is my friend to all intents and purpofes. The Chancellor, who you know is become my coufin, pays court to me most affiduously. M. de Choiseul no longer seems to bear me so much ill-will. He accompanied me the day before yesterday to Triel, which I am advised to purchase; but the Duke de Richelieu fays, that I must not trust myself there, and that it will turn out unlucky. The Duchess de Grammont, to avoid seeing me any more, is gone to ramble about the world; it is thought that she is now in Holland. The good God bless her! I wish I may never again hear her mentioned. Have you received the order for 200,000 livres, on M. Baujeon, which I fent to you on Sunday? You fay nothing about it. I shall be at Paris

Paris to-morrow; you will find me at the Opera.

I am, &c.

#### LETTER XIX,

To THE Countess DE Moyan.

August 4, 1769.

I SEND you an express, Madam, to let you know that we have got the pardon for M. and Mad. de Louerme\*. His Majesty granted it to me in the most obliging manner. If I am charmed to think," said he, "that the first favour which you extort from me, should be an act of humanity." Come to-morrow to thank him, and you shall, at

<sup>\*</sup> The Count and Countess de Louerme, persons of very high distinction, were condemned to be beheaded for rebellion against justice. The Countess de Moyan was their daughter. The Chancellor had refused to pardon them; but, through policy, had suspended the arret of condemnation; to give his cousin an opportunity of distinguishing herself.

the same time, be a witness of the pleasure which I feel at having had it in my power to oblige you. I am, &c.

### LETTER XX.

From the Marchioness de Montmorency.

August, 4. 1769.

I HAVE in my head, my amiable Countess, an idea that is somewhat singular. You know a certain nobleman called the Duke de Boutteville\*. He begins to be no longer young; he has committed many sollies at every æra of his life; but he pretends now, that he is resolved to become a rational crea-

The Duke de Boutteville was of one of the most illustrious families in the kingdom, but a bad subject; a man totally ruined both in fortune and character. Such a proposal from Mad. de Montmorency was highly politic, as she thus paid court to the Favourite in the most marked and ingenious manner.

ture. The first proof which he gives of it, is, that he has a mind to marry. He has asked me to choose a wife for him; at first I only laughed at his resolution; but when I found that it was seriously taken: "You must " have, then," faid I to him, " a woman of a " good understanding, lively wit, in short, " one who may ferve you for a Mentor. I "know one who would answer extremely well for your turn, but I am not certain " that she would accept of you." He then questioned me very earnestly, and I at length named Mademoiselle du Barré, your sister and friend. If I have been imprudent, my lovely Countefs, in so doing, my defire of being allied to you will be a fufficient apology. Make frequent mention of this matter to Mademoiselle your sister. Should the affair succeed, so much the better: if not, I shall not be the less your friend as long as I live bas ignate that the big of breggt next, there pessital pessitionest. Die this ferent was not granted aure. The first wood which in cave of it.

# LETTER XXI.

To THE MARCHIONESS DE MONT-

August 10, 1769.

MY fifter and myself, Madam, are much flattered with the alliance which you propose to us \*. I have mentioned it to the King, who very willingly consents to it. Arrange the whole affair, then, in the best manner you can; we leave it entirely to your management. Be affured that I desire, as heartily as you do, so flattering a connection. Believe me, dear Madam, &c.

\* This marriage, however, did not take place; for the Duke de Botteville required, as a preliminary, the liberty of the Duke d'Olonne, his son, condemned to perpetual imprisonment, from regard to his high birth, though he deserved capital punishment. But this favour was not granted.

LETTER

# LETTER XXII.

### To THE DURE D'AGUILLON.

August 10, 1769.

YOU are too much my friend, my Lord, for me to omit feizing with eagerners every opportunity of rendering you service. I have asked, then, the King's confent as to the post of Captain of his Light Horse-Guards, which you are defirous of purchafing. "But," faid he," "the Dukede Choifeul " has folicited it for the Viscount de Choi-" feul."-" Since that is the case," answered I, " there is one reason the more why you " should grant what I demand; for we must " punish the Duke a little for his ill-will "and animolity towards me." His Majesty fmiled, and faid, that he could not refuse me any thing. Thus you and I are both content. My compliments to my good friend, Mad. d'Aiguillon. Good day to you, Captain of the King's Light Horse-Guards.

HITTH I

F2 LETTER

### LETTER XXIII.

### FROM THE DUKE DE RICHELIEU.

ADORABLE COUNTESS,

YOU cannot too soon repress the insolence of the Count de Lauraguais. He has picked up a girl in the rue St. Honoré, has furnished a house for her, and gives her openly the title of Countess du Tonneau \*. You perceive the low rest ction intended by this impertinence. Is it continue a few days longer, all Paris will know of it, and we must therefore crush it in its outset. The Count de Lauraguais is a friend of the Duke de Choiseul; so you see from what quarter this stroke was aimed †. I am, with respect, adorable Countess, the most devoted of your servants.

LETTER

<sup>\*</sup> Tonneau, a cask, or tub. The allusion was, probably, to the low station in which Mad. Du B. and her mother had once been. See the first note.

<sup>+</sup> Mad. du B. laughed heartily at this joke.: but the Government was not so lenient. The poor Countess du Tonneau was sent to the Salpetriere, and the Count de E. escaped
a lettre de cachet, by setting off for London.

Give rue an enportunity of rendering years

# LETTER, XXIV.

# To MADAME DE MIREPOIX.

Yours, Sic.

Versailles, January 1, 1770.

I HAVE been this morning, my dear Madam, to folicit the King, as I had promised you, for the Loges de Nantes\*. But you may not have it, and do you know why? His Majesty had destined it as a new-year's gift for a very sad woman. You will easily guess that I am that person. His Majesty is positive that I shall have the place. I am in the highest degree slattered by this testimony of the King's friendship, but I should have been still more so, had he given me the place for you, as I have more pleasure in obliging than in receiving †.

<sup>\*</sup> A place worth 40,000 livres a year.

<sup>†</sup> One would think, from this letter, that Mad. Du B. asked the place for herself; but the following statement will clear up this business to her advantage. The King was surgounded with his courtiers, Madame du B. entered the room with an air of gaiety, and, after the usual compliments, said, I am come, Sire, to ask you for my new-year's gift, the Loges

Give me an opportunity of rendering you a fervice still more essential, you shall see with what pleasure I will undertake the office. Believe me, dear Madam, with my whole heart,

Yours, &c.

"Loges de Nantes, for my good friend Mad. de Mirepoix."

"That cannot be," faid the King, fmiling; "I have disposed of it." "Well," replied Mad. du B. "this is the fourth favour you have refused me; the devil take me if I trouble you again." The King observed to her, that it was bad to begin the new year with scolding. "And you begin it "much worse," said Mad. du B. "You lose your labour," replied the King; "you shall not make me change my resour lution. I am glad to see you solicit with such warmth for your friend, but do you know for whom I have destined this savour? It is for yourself, Madam;" at the same time he embraced her.

but I dead Abere. Seen hill roots for helene percent me the place for you, as I have mend

all of spanished grant out one and a tile and wolf evel and to the

counded with his courses, this was the verlettibe room with as air of gains, and asserted the almost ments. But

to all you for my new-year's wife, the

president in other tion and are recovering

LETTER

A place worth up one

to but affection of the bloom and t

#### LETTER XXV.

### TO THE DUKE DE VILLEROI.

PADMAMIN BET TO LAS February 1, 1770.

YOUR letter, my Lord, far from ferving as your apology, only irritates me the more against you, by the unworthiness of your conduct, and the meanness of your sentiments. I defire never to see, or hear of you, again. Never enter my doors more\*.

The Duke de Villeroi was a libertine. He fell desperately in love with a waiting-woman of Mad. du B. named Sopbie. After having seduced her, he inveigled her away from her mistress, in order to take her into keeping. M. de Choiseul, knowing that he went frequently to Mad. du Barré's, reproached him with the mean and servile court which he paid to her. "You are mistaken," said the Duke de V. "I should never have set my foot within the creature's doors, if it were not on account of her maid Sopbie. As a proof of that, I have just taken the girl into keeping." Mad. du Barré, to whom this answer was reported, denied herself to the Duke the first time he came to visit her, and sent him word never to appear in her presence again. Notwithstanding this prohibition, he had the meanness to write her a letter of apology, and received the above answer.

LETTER

#### LETTER XXVII

FROM THE ABBE' TERRAY, COMPTROL-

MADAMA LONG, BY LONG, IN SOMMANA

THE friendship with which you feem inclined to honour me, and the obliging things which you have said of me to your august admirer, render it a kind of duty in me to testify my acknowledgments in the most convincing manner. I have a project to put in execution, and hope you will not think it a bad one.

The King allows you a pension of 30,000 livres a month; which undoubtedly is inadequate to the very great expences which the station you occupy must necessarily put you to. You know it, since you are obliged to give many orders on the Court-banker, all which I take as cash, when he and I settle accounts. I will advise his Majesty to double your pension, and for this purpose I mean to give him to understand, that it will be

be really a piece of oeconomy, to suppress your petty bills and private drafts, which I will tell him are very considerable. Between ourselves, they shall be as much in force as ever, and I will accept them most cheerfully in my accounts with the Courtbanker. You see what I can do at present, in order to convince you of the zeal and attachment which I have vowed to maintain for you during my whole life\*.

I am, with respect, Madam, &c.

I AKE care, adorable Counters, how you liften to the idea which the Duke de Nosilles has put into your head, of going to the waters of Bareges, in order to avoid being pre-

fent at throxxx on the forbigs of ander precence that you would make but an indiff.

doid w at To THE ABBE TERRAY. I MOIST

YOU are an adorable, charming, divine man, my dear Abbé. Whatever you do will be perfectly right, and as agreeable to his Majesty, as to me. I make you my ac-

G knowledgments

This arrangement really took place, and Mad. Du B. not only continued to give orders on the Court-banker, but her brother in-law likewife did the same unlimitedly.

in whedgments for it beforehand. Believe me ever ready to ferve you to the utmost of my power. Good day.

force as every and I will see he them maft

banker. You de wher I can do at present,

# in order to convince you of the real and at-

#### FROM THE DURE DE RICHBLIEU.

for you during my whole life".

TAKE care, adorable Countefs, how you listen to the idea which the Duke de Noailles has put into your head, of going to the waters of Bareges, in order to avoid being prefent at the arrival of the Dauphiness, under pretence that you would make but an indifferent figure at the entertainments which will be given folely on her account, and that you might be exposed to mortifications from that Princess. The Duke de Noailles, who has given you this advice, cannot really be your friend. He has been fet on by the Duke de Choiseul, who wishes to profit by your absence, in order to weaken that ascendant which you have acquired over his Majesty. jesty. You are the King's Divinity, don't quit him for a moment. Young and handfome as you are, you have no notion of the danger that there is in absence. What arts would they not then practice to wean him from an attachment, in which his happiness confifts, and which they would represent to him in a very different point of view? Age weakens the force of the inclinations, unless they be continually exited. I will fay no more to you, my divine Countess; but know that if you once absent yourself, you hazard all, and the same I am, with respect, &c.

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# LETTER XXIX.

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# To THE DUKE D' AIGUILLON.

August 30. 1770.

I THANK you, my dear Duke, for your advice. The Duke de Richelieu was of the fame opinion, and I have reason to be quite fatisfied with the gracious reception which I met with from the Dauphiness\*. As to what relates to yourself, though I don't understand business, I yesterday joined my influence to that of M. de Maupeou, in order to quash the proceedings against you in the Parliament. I told the King, as we had concerted, that Choiseul had prepossessed the judges against you, because you were of my party. His Majesty is determined to go himself, and withdraw all the papers relative to your process, considering you as totally cleared from all those imputations which have been laid to your charge. You ought, therefore, to be content. Remember me to my dear Duchess. Good day.

\* The present Queen of France.

LETTER

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#### LETTER XXX.

### To THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

I DO not believe, my dear Duke, that all the arts united ever produced a master-piece more perfect and more elegant than the visà-vis which you have sent me. If I am never weary of admiring the various talents which the artists have displayed in this work, what encomiums do I not owe to the taste of him who directed them! I shall feel a fincere pleasure in making the King bear a part in this tribute of admiration. However, as nothing fo magnificent in this way has yet appeared, I have some apprehensions that his Majesty will object to my making use of it \*. But let what will happen, I entreat you to be as firmly perfuaded of my gratitude in this instance, as of my defire to give you, upon every occasion, proofs of the fin-

<sup>\*</sup> She never did make use of it. The King thought it too fine, and forbade her,

cere attachment which I have vowed to preferve for you as long as I have life +.

I am &c.

washield the attalled a law

# LETTER XXXI.

I de hat believe, my men Doile, dut all

FROM THE DUKE DE NOAHLES.

MADAM,

I AM charged with a commission from the Duchess de Grammont, and undertake it with the more pleasure, as it procures me the advantage of conversing for a moment with the divinity who is the delight of the Court. This lady is mortissed at not being in your good graces. She is at a loss to account for that coolness which seemed always to subsist between you. She has a particular esteem for you, and, being just returned from her

travels,

<sup>†</sup> This carriage, which was a memorial of the Duke's gratitude for the favour mentioned in the last letter, cost him 52,000 livres. The public was scandalized at this indecent luxury, and some satirical verses were made on it.

travels, defires, with the greatest earnestness, that peace may be established between you both. In pursuance of this wish, she has requested me to become her mediator. May I statter myself with hopes of success? I can tell you, on my own part, that she is distressed at having failed in point of respect to you on some occasions. But her present confession, and the step which she is taking, ought to operate in procuring her pardon, especially with you, Madam, whose goodness has been so frequently displayed. I entreat, then, that you will pay some attention to her prayer, and homour me with a word in answer.

in the entire of his Majerice, and the Royal Lamily of it all those artifices are erafficiently for models and the regraved entirely but, in tentier, only to define them. However, I harbour no rancour; tell her that I him sever to enterthin a thought of her, but on collection that I that never as her, but on collection that I that never as more at Court; let her interpolation at the river at the several desires at the several desires and more at the several desires and more at the several desires and more at the several desires and her than and her than

om nowoald or elected lam, with respect, &c.

LETTER

# LETTER XXXII.

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### To THE DUKE DE NOAILLES.

HOW, my Lord, is Mad. de Gramment unable to account for the enmity which reigns between her and me? Does the forget her insulting haughtiness, her contemptuous behaviour, and her unbecoming expressions? Does the forget the lampoons, which, at her instance, were composed, as well upon the King, who had loaded her with benefits, as on me? Has she lost the recollection of all her hidden practices, all her intrigues, all her cabals to blacken me in the opinion of his Majesty, and the Royal Family? If all those artifices are erased from her memory, they are still engraved on mine, but, in reality, only to despise them. However, I harbour no rancour: tell her that I wish never to entertain a thought of her, but on condition that I shall never see her more. Consequently let her appear no more at Court; let her live quietly at Paris, and I promise both you and her that I will

will give her no disturbance. Were it still in her power to ruin me, I am persuaded that she would. More generous than she is, I content myself with requesting her to honour me with her indifference, as I favour her with mine.—I am &c.

Dake, do a holloud as our of grand entents and grove is and groves that course the colors are considered as a secret is secret.

# LETTER XXXIII.

general desagon sil techne goodsand

FROM M. de MAUPEOU.

MY DEAR COUSIN,

December 5, 1770.

YOUR influence over state-affairs is as powerful as if you held the reins of government. Since, then, we have one common interest, it behoves us to maintain the strictest union, and do nothing but for the public benefit, in which, as good subjects, we shall likewise find our own. We have just given the Parliament the strappado, as you pleafantly called it, in recommending it to them to be more circumspect for the suture. But that losty and imperious Body, whose ambition even aspires to usurp the authority of

the Sovereign, is instigated by the Duke de Choiseul, its protector, to revolt against the new law of his Majesty; a law, however, which is nothing more than the renewal of an old one, enregistered these hundred years and more, and constantly enforced. As the Duke de Choiseul is our common enemy, and yours still more than mine, as there is no security for us while he remains in Administration, and as the moment is now come when we must get rid of him for ever, let us join our forces together.

On your part, you must continually give the King to understand, that M. de Choiseul is underhand exciting the Parliament to cease performing its functions, and to revolt against the royal authority. When you have advanced these assertions without seeming to be much interested in the affair, I will give his Majesty the strongest proofs of it, and will likewise let him see, by documents in my possession, that the Duchess de Grammont, under pretence of travelling for her pleasure, has been only seeking to stir up the other Parliaments, and render them refractory. In fine, the Duke d'Aiguillon and the

the Abbé Terray shall insinuate to him dexterously that the Duke de Choiseul, in order to preserve his interests entire, is endeavouring, by oblique methods, to kindle the slames of war, notwithstanding his seeming to enter into his Majesty's pacific views.

Here is more than is necessary to ruin that ambitious Minister in the eyes of our Monarch, who no longer loves him, but who, in spite of himself, is, as it were, habituated to the man, because he fears him, and considers him as necessary to his service. Such is the line of conduct we must pursue.

I am delighted with your last stroke of pleasantry respecting the Duke de Choiseul. Such railleries hit unerringly. It required wit like yours to devise such an ingenious turn. It is needless to recommend secrecy in our proceedings; you are as much interested as I am in keeping them concealed. I am, with respect, &c.

\* There were two jokes of Mad. du B. against the Duke de Choiseul. As to that of which M de Maupeou makes mention, we give it, such as it was, to the reader.

One day, while Mad. du B. was with the King, she had a couple of oranges in her hand, and, in throwing them up in the air, she cried, "Jump, Choiseul! Jump, Prassin!"

the Abbe Wirdy Well in North to Wind there

# LETTER XXXIV.

# To THE DUKE DE LA VRILLIERE.

December 24, 1770.—ten in the morning.

YOU have here, my Lord, two lettres de cachet which the King has signed, and which he charges you to present immediately to Messrs. de Choiseul and Prassin. Don't lose an instant.

### statistic from the I am, &c. and pares

Another time, she met on the stair-case one of her cooks, who seemed to her to resemble the Duke de Choiseul. "Are you one of my servants," said she to the man? "Yes, "Madam," answered he. "Go," said Mad. du B. "your appearance is inauspicious. Tell my steward that I desire never to see your face, and let him discharge you instantly." The thing was done. That same evening, Mad. du B. related the adventure to the King; adding, "I have turned off my Choisuel, when will you discharge yours?"

Here follow the two lettres de cachet; Imq. that to the Duke de Choifeul;

#### " Cousin,

"The discontent which your services occasion to me, obliges me to banish you to Chanteloup, whither you must betake yourself in twenty-sour hours. I would send you surther off, but for the particular esteem which I have for the

elignostance is yet teo recent for me to ac-

cent, with andance, 'at this mengat.

to nominate hoo. Builder he

### LETTER XXXV.

### FROM THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

December 27, 1770.

I HAVE received, Madam, too many marks of your goodness, to be surprized at this new favour with which you honour me \*. While I assure you of my unseigned gratitude, permit me, however, to make some reslections upon the present state of things.

The unequivocal proof of the King's protection, which I received on a late occasion, has raised me too many enemies, and that

the Duchess de Choiseul, for whose health I am interested. Take care that your conduct does not oblige me to follow other measures. I pray God, Cousin, to keep you under his holy protection."

2do. That to M. Prassin.

"I have no longer any occasion for your services, and banish you to Prassin, whither you must betake yourself in twenty-four hours."

Louis.

The place of Minister of the Marine, which Mad. du B. had obtained for him, and which the Duke, by a stroke of policy easily understood at that time, declined accepting.

circumstance

circumstance is yet too recent for me to accept, with prudence, at this moment, the post to which you have engaged his Majesty to nominate me. Besides, Madam, the universal regret which the public has shewn at the banishment of our enemies, is to them rather a kind of triumph, which cannot but place their successors in the most awkward fituation. It is my opinion, then, without entering into a longer detail, that I shall act more prudently in remaining for fome time behind the curtain, and waiting for a more favourable moment to make my appearance on the stage. All the precaution we have to take, is, that the interim be filled by persons who have neither consequence nor talents fufficient to make us fear that they might keep the post in spite of us. When the public shall have spent all its gall upon their heads, and their incapacity shall make a change defirable, it will be time for me to come forward. Becoming necessary, as one may fay, I shall have it more in my power to give you proofs incontrovertible of my devotion to your interests. You possess, Madam, fufficient sagacity to understand my plan, and fufficient. fufficient address to aid me in putting it in execution. There are, you know, certain occasions, where one must, according to the vulgar saying, retire a few steps, in order to leap the better.

fam, &c. and I woulden the King con-

# LETTER XXXVI.

Mindigs of the Africe for Meron, with in your situation, and desc. Abbe, to make, in this next poly, events effort to deserve that you now, because the continue to the man the state of the war

To THE ABBE' TERRAY.

name and animona bee good January 3, 1771

THE King, my dear Abbé, is still undetermined, as to the choice of a Minister of the Marine, I mentioned you to him, and thought that the Chancellor, who was prefent, would have assisted me in your behalf: but he did not say a single word. His Majesty made answer, that several persons had been proposed to him, but that he knew not to which he should give the preference. However, that the business of the Marine may fuffer no interruption from this want of determination in the royal breaft, I have advised his Majesty to give you the Porte-feuille conditionally, that is to fay, that you shall refign it immediately, on the appointment of another Minister. The King confents to this expedient: you are, therefore, Minister of the Marine par interim. It is your affair, my dear Abbé, to make, in this new post, every effort to deserve that you may be permitted to retain it. As the war department was not in your line, I had not even an idea of proposing it to you. The Prince of Condé has intrigued and solicited not a little for a Marquis de Monteynard, whom I know not, and the King has given him his consent. We shall see how he will behave himself, and whether we shall have reason to be content with him \*. Adieu. believe me ever

#### Yours, &c.

<sup>\*</sup> As interest governs every thing, the Prince of Condé had his in this appointment of the M. de Monteynard. He had long been wishing to have the post of Grand Master of the Artillery revived in his favour; it would have brought him in 400,000 livres a year; and he reckoned, that the Minister

de to bed to me, and that he would feecual all

### my projects; this he promifed to do, but he LETTER XXXVII

### I at from thepelolog me with what was n FROM M. DE MAUPEOU.

mics, he would not even

Parliament and the Choifed party, our cr

I MAKE no fecret to you, that far from engaging the King to give the Porte-Feuille of the Marine to the Abbé Terray, I have asked it, on the contrary, for M. Bourgeois de Boynes; and I request, that, if you do not interest his Majesty in favour of this? gentleman, you will, at leaft, press him no further in behalf of the Abbé Terray. You know that it was I who made him Comput troller-General; I expected that he would be

not with any view to the raidic good at War being a creature of his own, would be the first to propose the revival of this employment. But the Marquis de M. either unwilling to diminish his own falary and authority, by separating so fair a portion from his department, or really with a view of serving the State, represented to the King, that a juncture in which the condition of the finances required a retrenchment of the funds of the Treasurer at War Extraordinary did not appear to him to be the proper time for incurring fo considerable an expence, by granting to the Prince of Condé the favour he demanded. The matter was, accordingly, dropped.

attached to me, and that he would fecond all my projects; this he promised to do, but he had firmly resolved not to do any such thing. Far from supplying me with what was neceffary for completing the destruction of the Parliament and the Choiseul party, our enemies, he would not even remove the obstacles which lay in my way. No person was more deeply initiated than himself in all the mysteries relating to the chief offices in the law, better acquainted with the Parliament, and with the characters, tempers, and intrigues of his former brethren. Nevertheless, he has given me no affistance, no advice whatsoever, and has left upon my shoulders the whole weight and difficulty of the enterprize I have engaged in. Believe me, it is not with any view to the public good, that he has conducted himself in this manner, nor through friendship or generosity for his former brethren; but he looks upon the execution of my measures as utterly impracticable. He was in hopes that I would fink under the burthen, and looked forward to fucceed me as head-officer of the law, and proposed a plan of operations wholly different from

from mine. 'Luckily M. de Boynes has come to my relief; he has communicated to me all his information, aided me in the execution of my defigns, and still continues to render me the fame fervices. The King knows his merit and his talents, and I hope will recompense him with the department of the Marine, especially as he will find in him a man of unwearied industry and folid judgment\*. I entreat, then, my dear cousin, that you will not traverse my operations, from which nothing can result but what is happy. As for the Abbé Terray, we must not break with him directly, and without ceremony; you must still soothe him with fair promises, and thus keep him in perpetual dependance. I expect you to dinner to-morrow, as you promised; not-

<sup>\*</sup> This M. de Boynes was not a whit more honest than the Chancellor and the Abbé Terray. He was a new intriguer, who, less advanced than the other two, was pressing to get forward, had rendered himself necessary to the Chancellor, and had served him with sidelity at first, in order to gain sooting in the council, six himself there sirmly, and put himself in a condition to work on his own account, form a party, and raise himself on the ruins of those whose prosperity he envied.

withstanding matters of business, I hope you will find something to amuse you.

I have the honour to be, &c.

### LETTER XXXVIII,

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TO THE ABBE' TERRAY.

YOU were in the wrong, my dear Abbé, to be out of humour with me, because the Marine has been given away to M, de Boynes. You may rely on it, that I had nothing to do with that appointment, and that, for my own part, I am vexed that the preference was not given to you. You must not, on that account, take the matter so much to heart, nor offer your resignation, since you would be the first punished, were his Majesty to accept it. The King, whom I have asked why you were not thought of for that department, made answer, that you were the only person who understood

would be much more useful to him in that station, than in any other. So that you must not despair; perform your functions to the general satisfaction; leave a path well marked out for whoever shall succeed you; you will then be transplanted to a more important post. You know that that of Foreign Affairs is vacant; the King is not yet inclined to appoint any one; it is not impossible that you may be thought of for that place.

Iam, &c.

BOR DOWN AND LANGE

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ted and make a felicity was drawn to

#### LETTER XXXIX.

TO THE BARON DE BRETEUIL.

PRINCE Louis, Sir, has folicited, and still solicits, through the Prince de Scubise, the situation of Ambassador to the court of Vienna. The King could not refuse him. But as you were destined for that embassy\*, I have engaged his Majesty to give you that of Naples, which, to be sure, is less important, but equally honourable. He consented with pleasure, knowing your merit and extent of information. I am, Sir, &c.

The Baron de Breteuil was a creature of the Duke de Choiseul, and a man of the greatest merit in the line of negociation. But it was apprehended that he would form intrigues, at the Court of the Queen of Hungary, and persuade her to write in pressing terms in favour of the Duke de Choiseul. It was essential to the Du Barré party to have at the Court of Vienna a person devoted to their interests; and this it was which occasioned the preserence to be given to Prince Louis, before whose eyes, as one may say, the partition of Poland was made, without his ever knowing a word of the matter. When the King, therefore, heard the news, he exclaimed with much chagrin; "Ah! had Choiseul remained at the helm, this would not have happened." But he soon relapsed into his usual indolence, and forgot the whole affair.

LETTER

# LETTER XL.

to be fold, which belonged to the late linear

FROM M. DE MAUPEOÙ.

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Barres are descended from the house

I BELIEVE you are as well acquainted with the character of your august lover, as I am. He is too good, too weak, and the feverity which he has shewn in punishing the refractory members of the Parliament, now feems, in his opinion, to have been carried too far. It is his interest not to change, and, by an evident consequence, our own materially depends on it; fince we have declared ourselves too openly against those tribunals, not to have reason to fear every thing from their re-establishment. We must, therefore, intimidate his Majesty wherever his weakness would incline him to lenity, and must inspire him with courage, in spite of his timidity. We cannot employ too many engines for this purpose. One at this moment presents itself, which we must not suffer to escape us. There is a collection of pictures

to be fold, which belonged to the late Baron de Thiers: in it is the portrait of Charles the First of England, who was beheaded by his Parliament: fecure it at any price, under pretence that it is a family picture, as the Du Barrés are descended from the house of Stuart. You must hang it in your apartment befide the portrait of the King. The unfortunate end of the English Monarch will' forcibly strike his Majesty; and you may infinuate to him that, perhaps, the Parliament would have attempted fomething of the same kind, if I had not strangled the wicked plot, before it had acquired that degree of black and desperate villainy, which, otherwise, it might have reached. An apprehension of this nature, excited by you, my dearest coufin, will render him inflexible against every measure and attempt of our enemies. Burn this letter, but don't forget its contents \*.

#### I am, with respect, &c.

<sup>•</sup> Mad, du B. really followed the advice of M. de Maupeou. Absurd and abominable as the imputation was, it inflamed the King for the moment. From the foot of that
picture were those thunders hurled, which went nigh to crush
the Parliament to dust, even at the remotest corners of the
kingdom.

LETTER

Some that happened; to that there are

## LETTER XLL

### FROM COUNT DU BARRE'.

May 23. 1771.

BEHOLD me returned, my dear fifter, from my travels; and it is with the utmost fatisfaction that I fee you at the highest point of elevation. My fifter communicated to you the letters which I wrote to her for your instruction; and you perceive that you have profpered by not deviating from my advice. You have got rid of your most dangerous enemy: the Ministers are all devoted to us; the Chancellor, M. de Boynes, the Abbé Terray, the Duke de la Vrilliere, and the Prince de Soubise. But this is not all; there is still a vacant post, which we must fill up with a perfon of our own choosing. Our friend D'Aiguillon is perpetually urging us to engage you to procure this appointment for him from the King: he merits it in every respect; the affair of his process is already forgotten by the public. Six months have passed away fince

fince that happened; so that there are no longer any obstacles to his promotion. He has just left my house, accompanied by the Duke de la Vrilliere, and I have promised them that the thing should be done. You see, my dear sister, that we must not lose sight of this object.

You complained the last time to my fister (evidently with an intention that she should let me know it), that I draw too often on But the matter must the Court-banker. have been misrepresented to you; for I have, as yet, fingered no more than two millions three hundred thousand livres; and, even had I drawn for more, who is there that could object to it? Not the King, fince no person will be bold enough to mention it to him. Not you, who are indebted to me for the fortune you enjoy, and who should be the first to make a part of it rebound upon Not the Court-banker, fince, in his accounts, my orders are taken as cash. It cannot be the Abbé Terray, who stands in awe of us, and who would be crushed were you and I to fay but a fingle word against him. It cannot be our coufin, the Chancellor,

body, then, can cast the least reproach upon us; so let us continue to take advantage of fortune, while she favours us.

I am, most affectionately, &c.

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# LETTER XLII.

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FROM THE PRINCESS OF CONTI.

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May 28, 1771

YOU cannot doubt, Madam, of the fenfible affliction experienced by every member of the Royal Family, at feeing the Princes kept at a distance from Court, and lying under the displeasure of his Majesty. Those by whom you are surrounded, have persuaded you to employ all your interest to bring about this unhappy event. I had much rather believe, that your taking a part in this affair arose from your having been deceived by the appearance of a present ad-K 2 vantage; vantage; and that you did not forefee the difastrous consequences which must necessarily result from it. Things are now come to a crisis, at which they cannot long remain. What glory would you not acquire, if, willing to exert your credit to repair the mifchief you have done, and re-establish tranquillity in the kingdom, you would prevail upon his Majesty to recall those illustrious exiles, whom certain persons have persuaded him to punish, by representing them as rebels to his will, while, in endeavouring to ftem the torrent that overwhelmed the laws. they were giving him the most signal proof of their attachment to his true interests. the justice of such a cause be insufficient to engage you to defend it, your own perfonal interest should determine you to espouse it. Confider, Madam, what would be your fate, were we to lose his Majesty. Granting that the most dreadful catastrophe were not to await you, could you, without difmay, reflect upon the number and quality of the enemies you had made for yourfelf? You have it now in your power to change them into fo many protectors: it will even be an easy matter

matter for you to acquire a claim upon their gratitude, and to conciliate their esteem, as well as mine, by a mode of conduct, which, at all times, cannot fail to reflect upon you the highest honour. The si provides out as

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FROM M. DE MAUPEOU.

June 1, 17714 I HAVE again discoursed this morning, my dear cousin, with the Duke d'Aiguillon, relative to the project of your marrying the King. The thing appeared to us not at all impracticable. You know that we have a precedent in the marriage which took place between Louis XIV. and Madame de Maintenon. Circumstances affuredly are more favourable to you, than they were to that lady, who had nothing like fo strong an afcendant HETTHE

cendant over her lover, as you have over the King. Add to this, that Louis XIV. was of an exceeding haughty temper, and even rugged and intracticable: that of his fucceffor; on the contrary, is easy even to timidity, and stoops readily to subjection. But, in order to attain this end, it is absolutely necessary to perfift in destroying the Parliament, and in keeping the Princes at a distance. Should they be restored to favour, you are sensible that those hopes which present circumstances give you a right to indulge, would then be nothing more than a vain chimæra. therefore necessary, my fair cousin, that you fecond me with all your power. Be affured that I, on my part, will not remain inactive, and that every effort of your enemies will prove ineffectual, as long as we unite ours against them. You must now busy yourself in good earnest, to make the Duke d'Aiguillon Minister for Foreign Affairs, since in that quality he can not only render the other powers favourable to us, but likewife forcibly folicit at the Court of Rome the neceffary dispensation.

I am, &c.

LETTER

#### LETTER XLIV.

### FROM THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON,

MADAM,

June 30, 1771.

YOU have had too great a share in my nomination to the department of Foreign Affairs, to suffer you to doubt a moment of my entire gratitude for that favour, and of the desire which I feel to give you proofs of it. I have already had an interview with the Pope's Nuncio, on the subject of the dispensation which you wish to obtain, and he has promised to serve you in that affair. To set on foot a negotiation on this point in all the forms, it is requisite that you sign the memorial here annexed \*. I will remit it to

<sup>\*</sup> Here follows an abridgment of the Memorial:

Mad. du Barré represents to his Holiness that, being little skilled in the canonical ordinances, she never knew till after the ceremony of her marriage with Count William du Barré, that it was forbidden to espouse the brother of a man with whom one has cohabited. She confesses, with all the contrition of a penitent, that she had been guilty of certain weaknesses with respect to Count John du Barré, her husband's brother; that she has been fortunately

the Nuncio, who undertakes to present it himself to the Holy Father. On my part, I will engage the Cardinal de Bernis to solicit vigorously for its success.

I am, &c.

" nately prevented from entering into an incessuous com" merce; and that her conscience, now enlightened, did not
" fuffer her to cohabit with her husband: that the crime,
" therefore, has not yet been committed; and that she sup" plicates his Holiness to consent to her being relieved from
" so scandalous an alliance."

As to the rest, this project of marrying the King was nothing but a lure which the Chancellor, the Duke d'Aiguillon, and the Abbé Terray held out to Mad. du Barré, that the might interest herself always in their behalf, and obtain for them whatever they desired. They knew that the whole design was a chimæra; but an affair of that importance could not suddenly be determined; this was all they looked for.

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#### FROM THE ABBE TERRAY. escole would not fuller by its The King

nov novig and has anbient roAugus 5, 1771.

I AM too fensible, Madam, of all the marks of friendship with which you mean to honour me, not to testify my acknowledgments when opportunity presents itself. Here then is one, which cannot but be agreeable to you. The King granted 300,000 livres, life-annuity, to the Count de Clermont lately deceased. You see, then, that consequently his Majesty gains 300,000 livres a year at one flap. But, as you have not yet begun to think of your own interests, it is right that your friends should think of them for you. I have just had a conference with the King upon this subject, in which I represented to him, that your difinterested attachment to his person wholly turned your attention to pleasing him, and to demonstrating your gratitude for the favours with which he honoured you; and that I thought wingence that, out of Me remaining 2ds, occ it became him, in justice, to reward you, by giving you a part of the income enjoyed by the late Count de Clermont; which might be done the more readily, as it would not, in any fort, derange the finances, and as the people would not fuffer by it. The King thanked me for the idea, and has given you a third of the income. I feel the highest pleasure in apprizing you of this immediately, and in reiterating my affurances of the respect with which, I am, &c.

## LETTER XLVI,

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enently his. Mistly gains 300 000 liv

TO THE ABBE TERRAY. air may John

August 5, 1771

THE King has just confirmed to me, my dear Abbé, the gift which you notified to me this morning. Receive my acknowledgments for it; and, at the same time, the intelligence that, out of the remaining 200,000 livres . livres of the income of the Count de Clermont, I asked 50,000 for you, as a return for your good services; and that his Majesty granted them with the very best grace imaginable. This is the mode in which I like to revenge myself for your proceedings. Believe me, that I shall ever, while life remains, preserve the same dispositions towards you.

# LETTER XLVII.

that came in all washing showed

To M. DE MAUPEOU.

August 7, 1771-

I WAS yesterday with the King. The Abbé Terray came in, and returned the warmest thanks to his Majesty for the 50,000 livres a year which had been granted to him, at my solicitation, out of the 300,000 livres a year which the King gains by the death of the Count de Clermont, the third of which L 2

he had given to me, at the instance of the Comptroller General. The King then asked what he should do with the remaining 150,000. "Sire," faid I to him, "my " cousin, the Chancellor, is as deserving of "your munificence as the Abbé Terray. "You know what important fervices he has " rendered you: you have now a fine oppor-" tunity of rewarding him." "Yes, Sire," cried the Abbé Terray immediately after, " this will be some indemnification to him " for the confiderable facrifices he has made " by suppressing several places which were " lucrative appendages to his own, and by " remitting the right of the mark of gold to " all your new magistrates equally." This poor devil of an Abbé is not so wicked as you imagine. What do you think of this, my dear cousin? He is as careful of your interests as of his own: for my part, I am much pleased with him for so doing \*.

I am, &c.

One would think that, after this, the King had kept, at leaft, the remaining 100,000 livres. No fuch thing. The Count de la Marche came across him, and would have his share of the booty. He represented, that he was the only Prince of the Blood who had continued his attachment to the

#### LETTER XLVIII.

To M. DE MAUPEOU.

MONSIEUR Chancellor, in spite of all the churlish remonstrances of the Marquis de Montegnard, I have obtained the King's grant of the regiment which you desired for your son. I am eager to impart the news to you, and wish that you may feel as much pleasure in receiving, as I do in announcing it.

#### I am, &c.

King, and had approved the operations of the Chancellor, As a recompence for his zeal, he got the remaining 100,000 livres.

ter their me promotion and

#### LETTER XLIX.

To M. DE SARTINE, LIEUTENANT GENERAL OF POLICE.

I CANNOT, Sir, forbear expressing to you my entire distails action with respect to a book which has appeared within these few days, and the copies of which, I am told, are not as scarce as they ought to be. You are not ignorant how far this publication, the title of which is LE GAZETTIER Cui-RASSE', carries its insolence against the King, his Ministers, the whole Court, and myself in particular. I have no doubt that you will proceed, if not in discovering the author, and punishing him with all the rigour he deserves, at least in suppressing every copy of this insamous production.

I am, &c.

#### LETTER L.

FROM THE DUKE DE LA VRILLIERE.

ACCEPT, Madam, I befeech you, my most humble apology for the accident which happened to me yesterday at your house \*. You know that my sole reason for exposing myself to the risk of such a missfortune, was to oppose, with the utmost vigour and celerity, the granting of any favours without your participation, and even without your knowledge. Be assured, that the chagrin which that unlucky misehance occasioned to me, shall in no wise abate my zeal, and that you will ever find me disposed to give you the most unequivocal proofs of my devotion to your welfare.

#### I am, &c.

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This accident was produced by the consequences of an indigestion, the Duke having hurried to Mad. du B. after a copious dinner, to confer with her on the affair above-mentioned. He remained insensible for some time, and was carried home in a very disgusting situation.

#### LETTER LL

#### FROM THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

I WAS much hurt, my dear Countess, at being refused admittance, when I had no doubt of your being at home, notwithstanding the protestations of your Swiss. I had gone to you, in order to confole you for the mortification which you have suffered from the Dauphin. Had any thing pleasant happened to you, I should not certainly have been so speedily informed of it. This disagreeable affair, however, justifies but too well what I had the honour to intimate to you, when I heard that you had allowed yourself to level some jokes against that Prince, who has not the character of being patient \*. Any new

<sup>\*</sup> Mad. du B. had been so imprudent as to jest upon the supposed impotency of the Dauphin: this was reported to him. In a transport of rage, he hurried instantly to her apartments, where he let her know, in the most passionate manner, that she had no business to divert herself at his expence; and, as the Viscount du Barré had been talked of for the place of First Equerry to the Dauphin, for which his

admonitions would be at present unseasonable, as you are fully fensible how referved you ought to be in your expressions. I think it useless for you to attempt any thing towards an accommodation. You would meet with an ill reception, and, perhaps, experience fresh affronts. Apply yourself more than ever to hold the King in your chains: the favour with which he honours you will at least keep your enemies in awe.

I am, &c.

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aunt had folicited, that Prince faid to her; " Should your . " nephew get that place, let him not come near me; I will " give him a kick in the chops." [Mad. du B. was fo vexed at this scene, that she shut herself up for the whole day, and would not fee any one.

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#### LETTER LII.

To THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

I BEGIN to think, my Lord, that you are right in inspiring me with distrust of the I have discovered that, not-Chancellor. withstanding all his protestations, he endeavoured to obtain for his fon the post of First Equerry, though he knew right well that I was soliciting for the Viscount du Barré. I do not think that the King will accede to my request. - I will even own to you that, after what has passed between the Dauphin and me, I do not much defire it. I am very glad, however, to have had an opportunity of appreciating the good faith of M. de Maupeou. Affuredly I will retaliate. A propos, I know not who could have given intelligence to this Marigny, who is come just in time to traverse our designs, and prevent us from shoving him out \*.

I am, &c.

The Marquis de Marigny was Overseer of the Royal Buildings. The Du Barrés, looking on this place to be a natural

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#### LETTER LIII.

## FROM THE ABBE' TERRAY.

MADAM,

det of net December 2, 1771.

YOU are right in wishing that the place of Overseer of the Buildings should be given to your brother. But, to attain that object, we must invent grounds of complaint against the Marquis de Marigny, and here is what I have projected for that purpose.

This department has long been in want of funds to proceed with; prefent circumstances authorize me to refuse advancing any money, without my seeming to do so either from ill-will, or ill-humour; consequently, things are in the very worst condition, which

natural appendage to the family of the King's mistress, had been long soliciting for it, and, of course, blackened the Marquis in the King's eyes, in order to procure his dismission. The latter, informed of these secret practices, went to Court, in order to exculpate himself from the faults imputed to him. The King could not then determine on his disgrace. The Abbé Terray, however, while paying court to the Du Barrés, contrived afterwards to appropriate this place to himself,

M 2

cannot

8

cannot but displease the King. Take advantage of some moment when his Majesty shall ask for the completion of some work, which I will take care to retard; I will be closer than ever, and will not furnish a fingle fous to the Marquis de Marigny. must then infinuate to the King, that he would do well in conferring that office upon me, fince the proper funds being at my difpofal, I shall not have the same reasons to urge for any neglect, which my predecessor had, and will build for his Majesty to his heart's content. The Marquis being thus dislodged, I will tell the King some time after, that my occupations do not allow me leifure to attend to any new functions, and I will be the first to propose to him to entrust them to Count du Barré \*. Here, then, is a method which appears to me a good one, and I advise you to pursue it. I propose it merely with a view of obliging you.

I am, Madam, &c.

LETTER

<sup>\*</sup> This defign fucceeded immediately. It was at the castle of Bellevue that the opportunity presented itself. M. de Marigny was sacrificed, and the Abbé Terray had the place.

#### LETTER LIV.

To M. DE SARTINE.

e of all washing

December 18, 1771.

THE first duty of your place, Sir, is to stop the circulation of libels which resect upon the King's honour. Your vigilance, however, is always in fault upon such important occasions. Here is another vile Ode \*, which, I am told, has made its way through all Paris, and a copy of which has been sent to me. Find out the author, punish him, and prevent the Ode from spreading surther; otherwise, I shall be obliged to shew it to his Majesty, and engage him to put in your place a more loyal and vigilant subject.

\* The chief object of this Ode was the revolution which had lately happened; but, in one or two stanzas, the King's passion for Mad. du B. was treated with the highest contempt.

LETTER

Developer at Burnston

#### LETTER LV.

To THE DUKE D' AIGUILLON.

January 8, 1772.

LOOK at my husband, my dear Duke: he is now at Paris, in order to contradict the report of his death, which had been maliciously propagated. Advise him, I beseech you, to be very decent, and very reserved, for the short time that he shall remain in the capital. You may mention to him, likewise, that, on the least complaint that is made against him, he shall be banished that moment for the rest of his life, I am yours most cordially, my dear Duke, &c.

#### LETTER LVI.

To THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

I HAVE no doubt, my dear Duke, that the Chancellor is a scoundrel. He had all along given me hopes that Billard should have a pardon, which I had solicited, not to oblige that sad wretch, but on account of his poor uncle \*, who would be disgraced by the punishment of the nephew. He has laboured to render the King inexorable to my prayers. He is a man of whom we must positively get rid. I enter cheerfully into your measures, and will do what you advise me in this matter. I am, my dear Duke, your friend ever.

. M. Billard du Monceau, her godfather.

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LETTER

#### LETTER LVII.

FROM COUNT WILLIAM DU BARRE'.

MOST RESPECTABLE SPOUSE,

I HAVE been such an ass as to lose, the day before yesterday, a thousand louis-d'ors at the Marquis de Chabrillant's. I have been at my brother's to ask him for some money: but he had the impertinence to bid me go to the devil, and faid, that I ought to be contented with my pension, adding, that he had debts enough of his own to pay, without taking mine upon him. I must confess that this is very shabby upon his part. You know that play-debts are debts of honour: fo, I befeech you to let me have the fum I want, or I shall never again be able to shew my face. I will never apply to my brother any more in my necessities; he has no regard for me, and throws as much money as he pleases out of the windows. As a proof of this, he is just come from being sponsor along with Mad. de Murat, to a child of Mademoiselle

Mademoiselle Beauvoisin\*. This single business, which would not have cost me more than ten louis, costs him more than a thousand, which he might much better have given to me. I promise you that I will never play so high again; I will, on the contrary, endeavour to win, that I need not importune you any more. I have the honour to be, most completely,

Respectable Spouse,

Yours.

\* The inselence of Mad. du Barre's brother-in-law was now at its highest pitch. He kept a girl who had taken the name of De Murat. He married her to a Chevalier de St. Louis, who, by a fingular circumstance, bore that very name, and to whom he allowed a pension of two thousand crowns, for the maintenance of his mistress; whom he dignified, over and above, with the title of Marchioness. Soon after this affair, he was so indecorous as to stand sponsor with his mistress to the child of a famous courtezan, named Beauvoisin. The baptifinal ceremony was performed at Montmartre, near Paris, with the utmost pomp and grandeur. There was a train of twelve coaches, and as the parish church is fituated in the most elevated spot, the curate had the complaifance to come down to a little chapel, where the ceremony was performed. The presents, the sweetmeats, &c. . cost Count du B. 25,000 livres, who besides settled a pension of 1200 livres on the little bastard, his godson.

#### LETTER LVIII.

TO COUNT WILLIAM DU BARRE'.

I SEND you the thousand louis, for your play-debt, and as much more to keep you from the gaming-table, that you may no longer be a disgrace to me. I know that your behaviour at Paris is in the highest degree contemptible, and that every one loudly wishes you at the devil. If you stay there longer than eight days—take care of your-felf.

#### LETTER LIX.

FROM THE ABBE' TERRAY.

MADAM.

NOTHING could be more flattering to me than your honouring me yesterday with your company to dinner. But Mad. Damerval is enchanted enchanted with the gracious reception which you gave her\*. She earneftly defires that you will grant her a place in your friendship, and permission to pay her respects to you frequently. She has no other object than to contribute to your amusement; but, between ourselves, I will venture to tell you, that she might turn out very useful to you. The King's age, and the immoderate gratifications which for this long time he has been accustomed to, make variety in a manner necessary to him. Your charms, your attractions cannot for ever fix the heart of a lover who is naturally inconstant, and hackneyed in the ways of pleasure. If, by any other channel than yourfelf, he should meet with some one young and amiable, his roving heart might rest there for some time, and advantage might be taken of that moment to abuse his weakness, and alienate him from you. You

\* Vide the Fairy Tales.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Mad. Damerval is a baffard daughter of the Abbe Terray. He married her, at the age of twelve, to the Sieur Damerval, a brother of Mad. de la Garde, his second mistress, an old man, without fortune, incapable of profiting by the interest of his father-in-law, soolish, awkward, clownish, rough; in a word, a kind of Ogre.

know that, lately, the Princess de Lamballe made an impression on him \*. I would advise you, then, as a friend, to have near you fome young companion, who might now and then excite and fatisfy the defires of the Monarch. He would not, on that account, be the less attached to you, fince he would be indebted to you for the pleasure which you had procured him; and you will still preferve your influence, by thus accommodating yourself, as did the Marchioness de Pompadour, to the changeable taste of his Majesty. The little Damerval would be just the thing for this experiment; you could not find a better: she is a child who has neither wit nor talents to please the King for any length of time, and you could eafily provide another to succeed her, should it be necessary +. This

The King had feveral times spoken renderly to the Princess de Lamballe, and affected one day to exalt her charms above those of Mad. du B. who reproached him thereupon, and complained of the reports which he suffered to be spread, respecting his design of espousing that Princess. The King piqued at the reproach, said peevishly; "Madam, I might do much worse." Mad. du B. cried and roared, and the King quitted the room.

<sup>†</sup> The object of the Abbé T. was to make Mad. Damerval the King's mistress, and supplant Mad. du Barré. As he could

proposal, however, is a mere matter in the Should you adopt it, it may prove very advantageous to you; it is merely with that view that I impart it to you. You can no longer doubt of the respectful attachment with which I am, &c.

occornet this e vigo animal once too livrest and I was wrong in not lesting yet and country officer peans but I sad would living of our located account but I am our

#### therefore coincist. I imagined, on the con-LETTER LX,

vice : diace, without FROM MICHAEL OULIF, THE JEW.

MADAM, 31 1971 1971 May 7, 1772.

I HAVE been just informed that there is a lettre de cachet against me, to shut me up on account of the order for 66,000 livres which you lately figned. Madam, I intreat you not to ruin me. You know that I have done you no wrong. You owed me, originally, 60,000 livres; which, added to the

could not present his bastard himself, he, by a dextrous refinement in policy, wished the Countess to act as bawd. But his project fell to the ground, and the King still preserved the same attachment for his Favourite.

6000

6000 livres for your last purchase, make the 66,000 livres mentioned in the order. As I had the honour to tell you that I was in extreme want of money, you defired me to draw the order, which you had the complaisance to fign. It is true, you thought you were figning only a draft for 6000 livres, and I was wrong in not letting you know that I had added thereto the 60,000 livres of our former account; but I am not therefore criminal. I imagined, on the contrary, that I was doing you a piece of fervice; fince, without your perceiving it, I was releasing you from a debt which would otherwise have been a perpetual incumbrance to you, I trust, then, to your goodness, that, if there be really a warrant against me, you will order it to be suppressed. I shall never cease to pray the Heavens for the prefervation of your precious life; and am, Madam, with the most profound respect,

Yours, &c.

MICHAEL OULIF.

LETTER

#### LETTER LXI.

To MICHARL OULIF. .

May 8, 1772.

NO, my poor Oulif, you need not be in the least uneasy. So far from there being any notion of shutting you up, I have, on the contrary, acquainted the King with your waggery, which very much diverted him. So you may set your heart at rest \*.

• Mad. du B. had learnt this circumstance from M. Beaujon, the Court-banker, upon whom the order for the 66,000 livres had been drawn, and who answered it. This gentleman had observed to Mad. du B. that her orders became very frequent; and as she considered the last as only for 6000 livres, she called it a beggarly trifle. But the Chief Pinancier infisted that 66,000 livres were no such begatelle. An explanation ensued. Mad. du Barré laughed heartily, and related the trick to his Majesty, to entertain him.

LETTER

Litrocal Tile de Leone 21T

#### LETTER LXII.

To the Sieur Montvallier, her Agent.

GO, Sir, to Le Pot, the Notary. The faucy fellow, the day he came to my apartment to make me fign a contract, saw the Nuncio, and that poor Cardinal de la Roche Aymond, who, as I was getting out of bed, each presented me with a slipper. It is reported that he makes merry upon this circumstance, at Paris. Tell him, that if I hear of any more of these doings, I shall know how to silence him, and punish him as he deserves.

How goes on my separation? See the Abbé Terray upon this subject, and the solicitor he has appointed me \*. Get the affair finished as soon as possible.

I am your's entirely, &c.

The ground on which they rested this separation was comic. We know that, in such cases, it must be proved that the husband has mal-treated his wife; but as here there was

# full as eligible, will offer. I will go to morrow allixive Ros Borros dill i am.

thould not like the penchase, others, to the

## From the Sieur Montvallier.

MADAM,

hoon

Your feparation is concluded. You may now make as many purchases as you please, in your own name, without running any risk whatever. The Marquisate of Genlis, in Picardie, is to be sold; it is a magnificent domain, and I advise you to think of it. If you choose, I will go and take a survey of the place, and bring you a faithful account of it. You have at present no money, but here follows an expedient to procure some. Request the King to pay you the value of the 100,000 livres life-annuity which you have upon the city: that will be a million for you at once. If, after that, you

no room for such an allegation, it was necessary to resort to another grievance. Count William du B. was directed to call the Countess a woman of impure character in the presence of several persons. These deposed the fact, and that sufficed for the separation.

nol. . Thomas to 6 13

should

should not like the purchase, others, to the full as eligible, will offer. I will go to-morrow to receive your commands. I am, Madam, with profound respect, &c.

## LETTER LXIV.

OUR lensiation is concluded.- You

FROM THE ABBE' TERRAY.

THE King, Madam, having acquainted me with his intentions, I have given the necessary orders to the Sieur Certain, who pays you your annuity on the City, for the payment of its full value. It was even requisite to oblige him to do it, and that it should be entered upon the register, to operate as his discharge: by this method your agent may receive your million this very day. But as you know how desirous I am of being useful to you on every occasion, I am going to arrange things in such a manner, that, notwithstanding this payment, you shall still keep your 100,000 livres of annuity. You need

need entertain no doubt as to the success of this measure, no more than of the entire devotion with which I have the honour to be, &cc.

TO COUNT WILLIAM DU BARRE'.

OU are intolorable with your continual

#### domards. However, to get til of your incortanitivxde kara Tur a drant son

To THE SIEUR MONTVALLIER.

of elat country, that you never more for loss

WE shall see hereaster about purchasing some domain: what I have much more at heart at present, is the completion and embellishment of my pavilion at Lucienne. Go about amongst the painters, the statuaries, in short, all the workmen who should be employed to furnish and adorn it. Hurry them to put the last hand to it, and make Le Doux settle their accounts, to whom you are to give 100,000 livres, the price agreed on for his trouble. Good day.

O2 LETTER

need entertain hor doubt as so the facests of this measure, no more than of the entire da-

## LETTER LXVI.

#### To Count WILLIAM DU BARRE'.

YOU are intolerable with your continual demands. However, to get rid of your importunities, the King is willing to grant you 60,000 livres a year in the Duchy of Roquelaure, on condition that you do not fit out of that country, that you never more fet foot in Paris, and, in fine, that we may never again hear you mentioned. The Abbé Terray will of course make out the proper warrant for this gratification.

Go about amongh the painters, the flatuasite, in thost, all the workmen who thould be employed to family a dealern it. Hariv then to put the left hand to it, all mans Le Doux while their accounts, to whom you has to give too, ooo lives, the prosequent on for his monthle. Good day.

LETTER

5 O

LETTER

#### LETTER-LXVII.

FROM THE ABBE' TERRAY.

MADAM,

IN renewing the Powder Contract, I have secured a perquisite of 300,000 livres. This I destine for you. My reason for not sending it to you instantly, is, that I wished to be myself the bearer of the money, which you shall have in hard gold. I am told that the Farmers confider this perquifite as an exaction, and that the Chancellor, to whom they have applied, is to carry their complaints to the King, if he has not done so already. Should his Majesty mention it to you, I prefume to hope, Madam, that you will endeayour to bring me off. He will see on this occasion, that I neglect no opportunity of making his favours fall upon you, without putting the state to any expence whatsoever. I am, Madam, ever with the same respectful fentiments, &c. confeis that you w

LETTER

#### LETTER LXVIII.

#### TO THE ABBE TERRAY.

YOU are right, Sir, in suspecting that the Chancellor wished to injure you in the opinion of his Majesty. He has had the insolence to affert that you meant to appropriate the perquifite of the Powder Contract to yourfelf. Between ourselves, this may very well be the case; for what he advances, agrees exactly with what I have already heard from persons well informed of these matters. it as it may, your behaviour is too gallant to fuffer me to examine these affairs minutely. I have therefore acted as your friend; for, when his Majesty came to me to signify his displeasure, I burst out into a fit of laughter, and told him that every thing faid to your dispraise, was downright calumny and malevolence. As a proof of this, I shewed him your letter, and by that stroke made him confess that you were a man abounding in refources.

resources. So that you have not, in the least, lost his favour. Good day: believe me ever,

The 1/36 seconds of the fittib Yours, &c. of the

# LETTER LXIX.

to me not only of this proceeding, but like-

Perist. I adulte you, thin, in order to

# To Count Du Barre'.

I MUST tell you, Sir, that, if you have had it in your power to give me advice, it is now your turn to receive advice from me. You give yourself airs which do not at all become you. Every soul at Paris murmurs against you, and I am necessitated to confess that there is reason for it. In the first place, you boast publicly of being already at your fifth million, since I came to live at Court. Secondly, you have been so silly as to marry your mistress to a Chevalier de St. Louis, in order to give her a name; and she still remains what she was, in the sight and to the knowledge of the public in general, before which

doi:dv

which you make an open parade of here Thirdly, you have made a terrible uproar at the meeting of the Farmers-General, in order to obtain a directorship for one of your creatures; and the Farmers have complained to me, not only of this proceeding, but likewife of what you have fo loudly boafted at Paris \*. I advise you, then, in order to stifle these disagreeable reports, to go and pass a few months at the Marquisate of L'Isle, which I procured for you from his Majesty. Learn there to turn your tongue feven times within your mouth, before you attempt to speak. You may give out, for the pretext of this journey, that you are going to look at that estate, which well deserves your consideration, since it is worth above 100,000 livres, as I am affured. In

due

The Count had been at a meeting, to folicit for his friend, the Sieur Defaint, the Direction of Paris, vacant at that time. It was too late: the place was given away, and the new Director installed. An altercation ensued, and the Count asked insolently if they did not know that it was he who had given a mistress to the King, made the Duke d'Aiguillon Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. de Boynes Minister of the Marine, supported the Chancellor, the Comptroller-General, &c.; adding, that it became them to take care, and not put him out of humour.

due time you may return. I hope that your rash conduct will then be forgotten. Research that I give you this counsel as a friend, and to prevent the King from making use of his authority to send you away, on hearing of what you have done. I am ever, with the same attachment, &c.

#### LETTER LXX.

#### To THE ABBE TERRAY.

IT is now, Sir, almost a year fince you took possession of the post of Overseer of the Buildings, and it does not appear that you have any thoughts of sulfilling the terms of the agreement that we made, before I prevailed upon the King to give it to you. My behaviour to you hitherto does not seem to me to merit that you should play a trick to deceive me. I am unwilling to believe you capable of it, and you will oblige me by stating, as soon as possible, what opinion I ought

ought to entertain of your fincerity. I will own, Sir, likewise, that the more fidelity I observe in my own mode of acting, the less am I inclined to endure the failure of it in the conduct of others towards myself.

#### LETTER LXXI.

FROM THE ABBE TERRAY.

MADAM,

I SHALL never give you occasion to doubt my fidelity. You know that I have always zealously availed myself of every opportunity of giving you the most unequivocal proofs of my attachment. I will never belie myself at any time. You are well acquainted, Madam, with the neglected condition of all the Royal Buildings when the King appointed me Overseer. Now, I imagined that I should make a more agreeable and complete present to him for whom you destine that

that place, in not furrendering it to him until every thing was restored to the best condition possible. Be assured that this was the only confideration which occasioned the delay, a delay which shall not exist long. Permit me, however, Madam, to recal to your recollection, I will not fay your promises, but the hopes which you taught me to indulge with respect to the place of M. de Maupeou. You have long had cause to complain of him; you are as much interested as I am in his ruin, and if it is easy for you to accelerate it, it is no less easy for you to determine his Majesty to cast his eyes on me for the fuccessor. Be assured that you cannot put any person in that post who would be more truly in your interests, than, Madam, brust beg a le enclassificup odt

es tiothe viscositing to Yours, &c. hebris

\* This Mad. Parer was a Darch was an who teh year Lefore had made fome had a rarie. Sale chamed in age offe is not known for what receive) the else of Bereness of Neukonnue, The a recluse above mentioned is jerfer to Neukonnue.

conceal your gaine, and the proof of it is, that I, who thould have been the last to hear

P 2 LETTER

time, but the plot and anti-

that place, in spot farren kring, it to him

# LETTER LXXII.

### To the Duke be Duras.

AS an interested courtier, my Lord, you frequently pay your respects to me in a manner bordering upon meanness. As an intriguing politician, you endeavour to rob me of the King's affection, in applauding to him the charms of a Madame Pater, who might, they fay, have been passable twelve or fifteen years ago \*; and the scandalous chronicle adds, that, as gentleman of the bed-chamber, you not only presented her to his Majefty, but even held the bougie. I compliment you upon it; but you have not got all the qualifications of a true friend to your Prince; you are not fufficiently adroit to conceal your game, and the proof of it is, that I, who should have been the last to hear

SATTO

This Mad. Pater was a Dutch woman, who ten years before had made some noise at Paris. She assumed in 1772 (it is not known for what reason) the title of Baroness de Neukerque. The anecdote above mentioned is perfectly true, but the plot miscarried.

of it, know the whole of this plot before it comes to be unravelled. I know, likewife, that my dear Duke de Choiseul directs from Chanteloup the whole of your proceeding, and that he bopes to enjoy the benefit of it, as you certainly will have the shame. Go on, my Lord, let your talents shine, but take care to be more mysterious. From this day forth I desire that I may never see you within my doors. I am, moreover, with all the esteem you merit, my Lord,

nell mit server polities to Yours, &c. 1 144

#### LETTER LXXIII.

roller, and carned bread by it for horish and from condition; but fince you are become a selection of selection and fine selection and fine for the first selection of the fine to follow here to follow her to the produced as ground the fine and follows her to follows her to the selection and fine and follows here are follows her and fine and fi

coon the receives that the tevision of notes that that the hands that the hands

of my Lord the Asha Torran

would web have her live

MADAM,

comos

I AM, Madame Conftant, the brazier at Paris. You may eafily recollect me; for at the time when you lived with Lamet, my poor dear goffip, I had you regularly every morn-

ing

ing at my house, and we have often eat a fallad together. But now that you are as fine as a shrine, you have, perhaps, forgot your old friend. But, mind, I joke about all that. Be that as it may, if I write to you, it is not to ask you for any favours, because I do not defire any, but to recommend your poor family to you. Your aunt, Madame Cantini, who is a brave woman (you may be proud of her), is more miserable than the stones. Before you were a great lady, she lived by her trade of retailing wares for the toilet, and earned bread by it for herself and her children; but fince you are become a widow, or whatever you are, you understand me, you have forbid her to fay she was your aunt, and to follow her bufiness, promising her a pension of 600 livres, of which, however, she receives but half, because they say that that there thing goes through the hands of my Lord the Abbé Terray. And how would you have her live upon that, and breed up her children, who have no more education than a dog, and are running about stark-naked. In God's truth, this ought to make you ashamed. And do you know what

comes

comes of all this poverty? Poor Augustus, who is now feventeen; well, he, with another little devil, as roguish as himself, whipped a fowl off the counter at a cook's shop. He was brought before the Commissary, and only it was told that he was your cousin-german, they would have sent him to prison, and then afterwards the poor dear fellow would have been whipped, and burnt in the hand \*. Is not this a fine beginning; while you, who are as rich as a Jew, do not vouchsafe even to look upon your nearest relations with an eye of commemoration. Fie! this is bad. Take care, the wrath of God will fall upon you, and some tumbledown business will happen to you. Mind, that what I say to you is for your good; if you don't do it, so much the worse; if you do, so much the better. As for me, who have a heart that will bring me to the

gallows,

<sup>\*</sup> Mad. du B. apprehensive that this cousin would play fome new pranks, gave orders, some days after, that he should be taken up, and sent to St. Lazare, from which place he was let away only because his pension was not paid, and by the interference of his godfather, who had some influence. This latter person made the Du Barrés blush so much at the adventure, that the young man was at last sent to the Indies.

gallows, I cannot contain any longer; and I tell you all this with tears in my eyes, and am, with confideration, Madam Counters, your very humble fervant,

CONSTANT.

#### LETTER LXXIV.

FROM THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

YOU now actually, my dear Countess, see at your seet the King, the Princes of the Blood, the Ministers, in short, the whole Court. In order to maintain so splendid a a situation, you must seriously set about displacing M. Maupeou. Proud of his assendant over the Count de la Marche, and equally over the Prince de Condé\*, he hopes to become First Minister, and thinks that every thing must bend before him. It is

<sup>\*</sup> The P. of Condé was returned to Court, and had made his peace with the King, through the mediation of the Count de la Marche; and the D. of Orleans by the D. d'Aiguillon. absolutely

absolutely necessary to prevent his designs; and I fee no other way of doing it, but by ruining him, like the Duke de Choiseul. Could this, my dear Countefs, be brought about by your affistance, all the Princes of the Blood and the whole kingdom would love you: the Parliament, which would then be recalled, and which would be indebted to you for its restoration, would be devoted to your interests : in fine, you would be loaded with applause and glory \*. This was the fubject of a conversation which I had this morning with the Duke of Orleans, the Duke de Chartres, and the Prince of Conti-If then, you will prevail on the King, some day or other, to fign a warrant for the banishment of the Chancellor, you will see, the next morning, all the Princes come to thank you. I am, with the fentiments which you already know I posses, and which I have vowed to preferve through life, my id or aviorion brown dear Countels. Your's, &c.

119131

<sup>.</sup> It may feem furprising that the Duke d'Aiguillon should defire and folicit for the return of the Parliament, which he knew had been inclined to treat him with the utmost rigour,

#### LETTER LXXV.

#### To THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

I NO longer love, my dear Duke, the Chancellor, whom you hate. But all this policy, and all these plots, do not please me. I wish the dismission of M. de Maupeou could be obtained without my interference. The reason is plain. The King does not like that I should mention him. Whenever I do, he immediately becomes grave and melancholy: now, it is my interest not to disgust him, but to seek, on the contrary, every means to relieve him from his embarrassment. However, I do not say that I will not act at all: I wish opportunity to present

before the papers relative to his process were withdrawn by the King. But the wonder will cease, when we come to know that M. d'Ormesson, President à mortier, had promised the Duke, in the name of the whole body, by means of the D. of Orleans, that, should the Parliament be restored by his instuence, they would bring on his process again, and make him as white as snow, by acquitting him of the malversations of which he had been accused.

itself

itself without my looking for it; I should then take advantage of it. You may acquaint the Duke of Orleans with my sentiments. I am wholly your's, my dear Duke.

#### LOTTER LXXVI. Soldigo

I HAVE icaras, with chapsin, that are

# To Mademoiselle Raucoux, The

YOU remember, my fair Raucoux, what passed yesterday between the King, yourself, and me. Observe the utmost discretion, and do not abuse the favour which I have procured you. We have both rewarded you, and I hope it will not be for the last time. I will try to obtain you another interview, which will not displease you. Addieu, my pretty Raucoux; continue to be wise; it is the way to gain esteem, and secure success. You may depend upon my friendship.

Q. LETTER

#### LETTER LXXVII,

filelf without my looking for it, I floodd

To THE DAUPHINESS.

MADAM,

I HAVE learnt, with chagrin, that attempts have been made to hurt me in your opinion, by describing me as out of humour with respect to the diamond hook which I had ordered to be made, and which seemed to give you pleasure, fince you have kept it. Far from having expressed the least vexation at this circumstance, I was forry that I had not foreseen that the bauble might strike your fancy \*. I should have experienced as much satisfaction in preventing your wishes on this occasion, as I shall at all times have in proving how much I defire to merit the honour of your approbation.

I am, with the most profound respect, &c.

LETTER

The jeweller, in bringing home the diamonds to Mad. du B. was way-laid by order of the Dauphiness, who desired to see them, praised them very highly, put them on herself, and declared that she would keep them. She afterwards appeared at Court with them, and told the King the trick she had played on Mad. du Barré.

Sarring to prohibit the circulation of any more copies at Paris. Good night, my dear

#### LETTER LXXVIII.

#### FROM THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

MY dear Countess, they have been making more stanzas on the King, in which they have given the public to understand that I have had the happiness to be in your good graces. I am at a loss to conceive how our connection came to be suspected. Have you yourfelf been fufficiently circumfpect, and are you fure of our confidente? You know the least glance before the Courtiers is a fort of proof; and besides, you are well aware of the interest that we both have in keeping this grand fecret. I wish rather to believe that it is only a suspicion invented by malevolence; but nothing is more important than to prevent those verses from coming to the knowledge of the King. M. de la Vrilliere has just fent two persons to prison, upon whom were found fome copies; and he has given the the strictest orders to M. de Sartine Sartine to prohibit the circulation of any more copies at Paris. Good-night, my dear Countess; believe me ever your's, &c.

## LETTER LXXIX.

To the Duke de Chartres.

am at a late to conceive how our

MY LORD, Segler de semes noi Sento a

I SPOKE yesterday to the King, with regard to the post of Grand Admiral, which you defire. I said the finest things in the world to him, in order to render him propitious. His Majesty asked me if you had the consent of the Duke de Penthievre. I answered, that I believed so. He asked that Prince about it yesterday, who, as you had not said a word to him on the subject, appeared very much surprised at the step which you have made me take. The King even went so far as to reproach me: my excuse was, that I knew nothing of the matter,

and that I had merely acquitted myself of my commission. See, therefore, and range your batteries better for the future. My respects to Gros Pere \*, I beseech you. of mans tovo une 1 71 . I am, &c. t a se

will regar ship first term ones wood This terre care to have the Lerest de cachet

#### LETTER LXXX.

e intended, and they render in

To THE DUKE D' AIGUILLON.

LAST night, my dear Duke, I went to bed in high spirits, from the hope of informing you this morning of the difgrace of the Marquis de Monteynard+. The King had at length given way to my entreaties, and figned the lettre de cachet which I presented to him, after having brought him to the point

I wished

<sup>·</sup> Fat Daddy.—A name which she had given the Duke of Orleans.

<sup>+</sup> M. de Monteynard having applied to the Abbé Terray for money for his Department, the latter dryly answered that he had not any. Upon which the Marquis replied harshly, that he was surprised he had no money for the King's service, while so much was squandered upon whores and pimps.

I wished for. His nocturnal reflections have overturned my whole project, and the first thing he did when he rose, was to revoke what he had figned. This event will ferve as a lesson to me. If I am ever again so lucky as to meet fuch another opportunity, I shall take care to have the lettres de cachet carried immediately to the persons for whom they are intended, and thus render it an impossibility for the King to alter what he has done. I am quite vexed at having missed my blow, for that man is more hateful to me than ever, after what he faid to the Abbé Terray, the refusal which I received from him\*, and his connections with the Chancellor +.

I am, &cc.

LETTER

She had asked him for the Regiment of Beaufremont Dragoons, for the Sieur Dangers d'Orcay, nephew to the Farmer-general of that name. The Marquis refused to give it to that upstart, and granted it to the Prince de Lambesc.

<sup>†</sup> It may perhaps appear surprising, that the Marq. de Monteynard, the most honest of the whole Ministry, should have connected himself so closely with the Chancellor. But, when he was asked the reason, he made answer, that, in matters which he did not understand, he always sided with that Minister, to whose department the affairs in question related; sollowing, in this, the system of Cardinal Fleury.

# you and I find agree on. I find I had not fee

not propose any to the King, except such as

## To the Duke o' Aiguillon.

IF I have not had, my dear Duke, the fatisfaction of expelling at once the Marquis de Monteynard, the King, to keep me from being out of humour with him for his weakness on this occasion, has just granted me the favour which you counselled me to ask for. I mentioned to him the enormous contributions levied by Mad. de Longeac\*, and the persons for whom she obtained favours. His Majesty shewed much indignation, and promifed me that he would recommend to her certain persons as proper to compose the household of the Count d'Artois. It will cost those nothing who shall be placed there, but we shall have the satisfaction of seeing none amongst them but such as are devoted to our interests. The Chevalier du Barré shall be Captain of the hundred Swiss guards. As to the other posts, see you, my dear Duke, what persons you can rely on: I will

<sup>\*</sup> Mistress of the Duke de la Vrilliere.

not propose any to the King, except such as you and I shall agree on. I shall not see you to-day: the King goes to hunt, and I mean to spend part of the day at the convent of St. Elizabeth\*. Adieu, my dear, you know how much I love you.

• Mad. du Barré went there to see her mother, who had taken the name of Madame de Montrable, to which it was now beginning to be fashionable to prefix the title of Marchioness. Mad. du Barré's behaviour to her, is a panegyric on her heart; since, spite of the intoxication from royal favour, and the dissipation in which she lived, it seldom happened that she was more than a fortnight without going to see her mother, dine with her, and pass there a great part of the day. It is here to be noted, that the Superior of the convent carried her meanness to such excess, as to send her niece, who was a fine singer, to amuse the Countess while at dinner.

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#### ters which I have not brought toraccount. LETTER LXXXII. on ni

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#### prodicious fume to make up his Perliaments FROM THE ABBE TERRAY.

Paris, April 18, 1773.

YOUR agent has applied to me for 600,000 livres on your account, without telling me how you mean to employ them. My anfwer was, that I could not, at that moment, let him have them, but that I would do myfelf the honour to confer with you on the fubject. I am very far, Madam, from refusing you any thing: you know full well how forcibly I am attached to you. Permit me, however, to make fome reflections, after which I will conform myself to whatever you shall defire. The King's treasury is not fo inexhaustible as you seem to think. Notwithstanding every means which I can devise in order to find resources, I own that I am frequently, and particularly at this moment, very much embarrassed. Since you first honoured me with your favour, you have fingered 18,000,000 livres clear money, without R 2

without mentioning a swarm of petty matters which I have not brought to account. In another quarter, the Chanceller expends prodigious fums to make up his Parliaments and pay his spies: in fine, the Duke d'Aiguillon wholly ruins me, in order to support his creatures, and gain partizans in Foreign Courts, where you know he is looked upon with an evil eye. Judge yourself, Madam, whether my reflections be ill-founded. I must indeed be in great embarrassment to mention these things at all, having nothing more at heart, than to gratify your wishes, and even prevent them, when I can. If, however, you can content yourself, for the present, with 300,000 livres, your agent shall have them whenever he has a mind to call for them. I am, with respect, &c.

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LETTER

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# LETTER LXXXIII.

From Mademoiselle Dubois, The Actress\*.

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MADAM,

attra dions.

Paris, April 25, 1773.

IN obedience to your orders, I had determined on returning to the stage, and endeavouring to improve my seeble talents in order to amuse you still longer. Unfortunately, I took this resolution too late: my parts are given away, and the rest of the company made me sensible what disorder I was going to occasion amongst them. They assured me that the Gentlemen of the Bed-chamber had taken upon them to present you with a memorial, which would explain to you more clearly the impossibility of my re-appearance. May that convince you, Madam, of the zeal with which I solicited, and the earnest desire

We have not feen the originals of this and the following letter. We infert these here merely because some copies of them had circulated at Paris, and at court: but we cannot youch for their authenticity.

I felt to contribute to your entertainment in those precious moments, when your genius takes some rest from the important occupations which exercise it.

But, Madam, your goodness emboldens me to apply to you for another favour. Allow me to open my heart to you: your own is too fensible, not to pay some regard to the weaknesses of love. For these twelve years past, and upwards, I have been attached to Dauberval: happy, if his passion for me had been as constant as mine for him! To how many others has not that unfaithful man made the same solemn protestations! I. however, have a dear pledge of our union, a child, the object of my maternal tender-I cannot without forrow reflect on the illegitimacy of his birth: I wish to remedy it by marriage. I am now rich; I have wherewithal to pay the debts of that perfidious creature; all I ask is his return and his hand. This good action, Madam, is worthy of you; and though I have led a life fomewhat disorderly, my heart has ever harboured honest sentiments. You know what necessarily befals a young woman with some attractions,

attractions, whose fituation exposes her to be led aftray by the homage of the amiable noblemen of the Court. How is the to refift fo many seducers? However, I have never been happy in that vortex of diffipation which attends the theatre: a sense of religion remained at bottom; I have a timorous conscience which is easily alarmed; fears for futurity have troubled me unceasingly in the very lap of pleasure; the loss of my last lover has thrown me into a deep melancholy; his fatal end in the prime of life, has made me tremble for my own. This, Madam, was the chief motive which engaged me to quit the stage: it was your pleasure that I should return to it: I vanquished my scruples and my repugnance. Circumftances, however, oppose your wishes. Deign, Madam, to complete that happiness which I feel in finding that I am, for fome moments, the object of your thoughts, by extending to me the protection I claim, or, to speak more properly, by exerting an authority which can never be more worthily employed. I am perfuaded that Dauberval cannot object to perform a duty which has been once enjoined

ed by you, and I shall acquire one other confolation by this marriage, which is, that having it no longer in my power to divert you at the theatre, in those hours of illustrious leisure which you dedicate to recreation, I shall at least contribute to your entertainment by another self, by a husband, who will be devoted to that delightful service, as long as he shall have the happiness, to please you. I am, with the most prosound respect, &c.

#### LETTER LXXXIV.

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FROM DAUBERVAL, THE OPERA-

MADAM,

I AM not as well acquainted with love, as Mademoiselle Dubois; but, if it consists in

Mad. du B. after receiving the letter of Mademoiselle Dubois, had sent to Dauberval, and communicated to him the proposals of the actress, which were, to give him 40,000 livres to pay his debts, besides several other very lucrative offers.

taking

taking a man to bed to her, it is true that she has had a great deal for me. However, as it was not possible for me to occupy her attention every day, and as, doubtless, it was absolutely indispensable for her to be in love, the often gave my place to others; and thus four or five of us, and fometimes more, formed a relay, and relieved one another by turns. The refult of all this was a little boy. She did me the favour to father it on me; I received it with the more gratitude, as the might have chosen one for it more diftinguished, either amongst several Lords of the Court, or amongst the gentlemen of the Long Robe, or amongst the Clergy, or the Matadors of the Finances. Be that as it may, I accepted the honour, and confented to take care of the baby. But his mother, who confidered him as a plaything expressly created by Providence for her amusement, thought proper to keep possession of him, and make him as it were her pastime. Whereupon I declared that I did not understand hat, and that I renounced the fathership. And now, when the urchin is no longer so agreeable, nor so docile, when he

S

is a clog to her, and lies heavy upon her hands, she has a mind to get rid of him, and fend him back to me. But fince she has had the emolument, so let her have the charge, the more fo, as it is conformable to the fober life she means to lead, to the maternal fentiments with which her bowels yearn, and likewise to those of religion which the affects and affumes at prefent. I know that the has a very weak head; I was apprehensive that I should catch the contagion, and that she would help to turn mine. She is afraid of the devil, and fo am I; this is what prevents me from espousing her; it is a dæmon incarnate, which maddens father, mother, fifter, lovers; judge what would become of the poor husband.

You have given me your permission, Madam, to speak freely upon this subject, and I act up to your intention. May my frankness afford you even a momentary amusement. I imagine that it is all you have had in view in this negotiation, too much beneath you, Madam, with respect to those who are the objects of it, but worthy of admiration for that goodness of heart which characterises

characterises all your actions. The greatest missortune of Mademoiselle Dubois will, doubtless, be her not having it any longer in her power to contribute to your entertainment. As for me, I have no occasion to marry her, in order to prove my devotion to you. I wish to have to myself alone the whole merit of the most voluntary homage.

With respect to Mademoiselle de Raucoux, whom you have proposed to me as a wise, on failure of Mademoiselle Dubois, she is as yet a new note, which must necessarily enter into commerce, and of which I do not wish to be the first drawer, nor even the indorser. When it has circulated, we shall see with whom it rests.

I am, with profound respect, &c.

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#### LETTER LXXXV.

#### FROM THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON

YOU know, my fair Countess, that we have many causes of complaint against your brother-in-law. In addition, he has just committed an outrage at which I am quite mad. You shall be the judge, and I hope you will affift me to keep him within bounds. Since his return from Liste, he shut himself up for some days in the castle of Triel, in order to abandon himself more freely to all the rage of gaming. Over and above the money he had with him, he has loft, upon parole, seven thousand louis', for which, according to custom, he gave an order on the Abbé Terray. The Abbé, pursuant to the agreement made between us, refused to pay the money. Your brother-in-law, upon this, broke out into a flame, made use of the bitterest invectives against us all, and boasted that he had made the Ministers, and that it was in his power to turn them out.

In fine, he thought he was giving a grand idea of his moderation and economy, in faying that he had yet drawn but five millions from the royal treasury. What vexes me most is, that the person from whom I had this information, affured me that thefe declarations had been made at an entertainment, where the company confifted of those who will take a pleasure in divulging them. You perceive, my dear Countess, how much mischief they may do you, particularly as to what relates to the facility of draining the royal treasury, a matter which they will not fail to exaggerate, in order to make you enemies. I speak to you with the utmost freedom upon all these matters, as I know you have been long weary of the perfecutions you have suffered from that man, who is a very dangerous person; and I hope you will affift me to put a stop to them \*. From the character of the man, I am certain that he will not fail to commit fome extravagance,

which

<sup>\*</sup> It was usual with the Count, when he lost considerably at play, and any one lamented his ill luck, to cry—" Eh! "my friends, don't let that trouble you; FREROT will make it up to me." It was thus he named Louis XV.

which will furnish us with a decent pretence to send him off, and to force him to submit to that measure, should he prove sturdy. Adieu, my fair Countess; you know how dear you are to me.

### LETTER LXXXVI.

To THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

Fontainbleau, Oct. 21, 1773.

MY dear Duke, I am in a mortal fright. You know that, the day before yesterday, the King was indisposed: he made La Martiniere lie in his chamber: I know not what passed between them, but, from that time, his Majesty has been cool in his behaviour to me. I dread exceedingly the remonstrances of that Æsculapius \*. The conse-

The King discovering to La Martiniere, his First Surgeon, his uneasiness with respect to his decayed state of health, said; "I see clearly that I am no longer young; I must fasten up."—" Sire," answered La Martiniere, " you would do much better to unyoke."—The King was, for some

quences that may arise from his counsels make me tremble. As soon as you are at leisure, come to me: I shall be alone all the evening: it is of the utmost importance that we concert the plan of conduct I should follow.

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indy, that you have not done what you could have done. I connect to a correctly a coouth as yours made engagements with use only with a refolution to

From the Duke of Orleans.

Paris, October 24. 1773.

I WAIT impatiently, my dear Countess, the issue of the solicitations which you have promised to make to the King, to engage him to give his consent to my marriage with Madame de Montesson. The lively interest

fome time after, very cool towards his mistress, insomuch that he countermanded a magnificent coach which she had ordered for the review, at which she was not present. But soon afterwards, his health was re-established, and his coldness towards the Favourite entirely disappeared.

which

rantor

which you feemed to take in this affair, and the influence you have with his Majesty, induced me to hope that fuccess would foon crown the application. It was only, you know, by fetting it in that point of view, that you determined me to return to Court. Since I have taken this step, things are not a whit farther advanced: certain it is, fair lady, that you have not done what you could have done. I cannot, however, believe that fo pretty a mouth as yours made engagements with me only with a resolution to break them. Such a procedure would belie that amiable frankness which you have used towards me on all occasions; and I know not why I should be the only one with whom you would act unfaithfully.

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former time after, were tout to words his miner; to an armore that we consider the constraint of the c

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LETTER

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# LETTER LXXXVIII.

To the Duke of Orleans.

MY LORD,

October 25, 1773.

NOTWITHSTANDING all the influence which you suppose me to possess over the King, it is not so easy for me as you imagine to make him do things to which he is difinclined. I will tell you without reserve, that this marriage is one of those things, and I am distressed at it on your account. Hitherto my applications have proved ineffectual; but all we want is a lucky moment to render you content. When will that come? That is what I cannot tell you Observe, Gros Pere; have you a mind that I should give you good advice? Begin by marrying, we shall afterwards try, and do better for you. I am myself much interested in the affair. If the King does not give his confent to your marriage, he may afterwards acknowledge it, and that will come to the fame thing. Be affured that I shall never forget your interests,

and that I will suffer no opportunity of obliging you to escape me.

I am, &c.

# LETTER LXXXIX.

To THE DUKE D' AIGUILLON.

I WRITE to you, my dear Duke, over-whelmed with the lamentations of the Duke de la Vrilliere and Mad. de Langeac. But the affair is settled: the Chevalier d'Arcq shall be some time without selling favours. The lettre de cachet is signed for his banishment to Tulle, where I doubt if he will find, so easily as here, opportunities of displaying his talents. I still depend on the promise you gave me of coming to Paris with me to-morrow. Adieu, I am your sincere friend.

#### LETTER XC.

To THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

YOU have guessed right, my dear Duke; the marriage of the Viscount du Barré is not to take place: my entreaties and my tears have been unsuccessful. The King has been sirmer than I thought he would be. It is the Marquis de la Tour-du Pin-la-Chorce who carries off from us Mademoiselle St. André\*. We must think seriously of Mademoiselle de Tournon; they say she is very handsome; they would even make me apprehensive that she might become my rival. But no matter: should that happen, I should at least have the satisfaction of seeing that the place did not go out of the family.

I am yours ever.

This lady was a natural daughter of Louis XV. who, at the representations of the Sieur Yon, a trusty person in his considence, rejected Du Barré, and gave his daughter to the Marquis de la Tour-du Pin-la-Chorce,

#### LETTER XCL

FROM THE PRINCE OF SOUBISE.

THE interview took place yesterday, my lovely Countess, at my house. The Vifcount du Barré is enchanted with my fair cousin, who, on her part, consents to every thing that I shall do for her welfare. The Prince of Condé is not averse to this alliance: but, before he formally declared his fentiments, he defired that the King should admit him into the Council, that he should purchase his hotel, and give him 1,500,000 fivres to pay his debts. He thinks it will be easy for you to obtain those favours from his Majesty. As to me, I defire it heartily, from my impatience to see a match concluded which flatters me prodigiously. I know that we might dispense with the approbation of this Prince: but it would make a confiderable difference in the general satisfaction, If, on the contrary, the Prince of Condé should obtain what he desires, it will not be difadvantageous disadvantageous for you to acquire so strong a claim upon his gratitude.

I am, amiable Countes, &c.

### LETTER XCII.

FROM THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

I HAVE, my dear Countess, many observations to make to you upon what you said to me yesterday. Though you have listened with an air of gaiety to the prudent apprehensions with which they wished to inspire you, relative to the consequences of the match in question, I think that it merits on your part a good many resections. I am afraid that, in exerting yourself to bring that point to bear, you will be labouring at the same time for your own destruction. Might they not have some design of that nature on foot, in soliciting you to have this affair so much at heart? Your brother-in-law is capable

pable of it, and perhaps he is not the only one \*. Consider well of this, my dear Countess. Mademoiselle de Tournon, handsome as she is, might happen to please the King; the Prince of Condé, by his rank and his relationship to her, will have the highest influence over her; and you are sufficiently acquainted with Count du Barré, to apprehend his acquiring over his daughter-in-law an ascendant, which he would infallibly make use of for your ruin, or, at least, to keep you more than ever dependent on him. If, spite of all these observations, you persist in your inclination to run the risk of the event, it will be at least highly important to exclude the Prince of Condé from the Council. For, besides that it would add to the advantages which he may derive from this alliance, we should be no longer masters of the deliberations; he would become all-powerful, and would find himself at the head of the Administration. However, not to rebuff him, prevail upon his Majesty, without giving him a positive refusal, to let him hope

that

<sup>\*</sup> The Viscount du Barré here mentioned, was the son of Count John du Barré, with whom Mad. du B. had lived.

that this favour may be granted to him after the marriage, without precisely naming the time, or binding himself by a formal promise. As to the payment of his debts, and the purchase of his hotel, you may easily obtain for him these two favours; they may satisfy him without involving you in any troublesome consequences. Adieu, fair Countess; observe that I am here only representing to you the consequences of the two parts which you have to take, without advising you as to either: so, let what will happen, you have nothing to reproach me with. I am ever, with the same friendship,

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Yours, &c.

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# LETTER XCHI.

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To THE PRINCE DE SOUBISE.

3 1 K,

I HAVE been lucky enough to prevail on the King to purchase the Prince of Condé's hotel, and to grant him 1,500,000 livres in order to pay his debts. I could have wished to be equally fortunate with respect to his having a place in the Council: but his Majesty told me, that he would see, after the marriage, what was to be done as to that matter, that he neither formally granted nor refused that favour. Such, Sir, is the whole refult of all my earnest solicitations. If the Prince of Condé perfists in refusing his approbation to the marriage of Mademoiselle de Tournon with the Viscount du Barré, unless on express condition that he shall be admitted into the Council, we must no longer think either of alliance or favours; we shall fee and get for the Viscount a match which will

will not embarrais us with such difficulties. My regret will be wholly confined to the circumstance of my not having been able to fulfil your expectations. In all other respects, I shall do every thing that depends upon myself; and you shall have nothing to reproach me with.

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# LETTER XCIV.

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# FROM THE PRINCE OF CONDE'.

I NEVER affected, Madam, to make any conditions with respect to the marriage of the Viscount du Barré; but I had imagined, that before he espoused a person to whom I am related, I might, on such an occasion, solicit, through your interposition, certain favours, which I should have been the more flattered in obtaining, as I should have been indebted entirely to yourself for the

the obligation. Accept, Madam, my fullest acknowledgments for the two favours which the King, at your instance, has granted to me \*. As to the third, I dare presume that you will not lose fight of it, and that you will continue to me your good offices with regard to it. I should defire even to have some conversation with you on this subject: be so kind to let me know the day and hour when I may have the honour of seeing you.

I am, &c.

\* The Prince of Condé, who was very ambitious, really did entertain these views which the Duke d'Aiguillon suspected: but he became less difficult to deal with, through the sear of losing all,

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# LETTER XCV.

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# To THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

IT is with forrow, my dear Duke, that I acquaint you that my reconciliation with the Royal Family is not likely to take place, as I had fondly flattered myself. I have nothing to say against Mad. de Narbonne, who conducted extremely well the negotiation she was charged with. She had persuaded Madame Adelaide; that Princess, once gained over, would have found no difficulty in prevailing on her fifter, and the might have been fortunate enough not only to engage the Countess of Provence on our fide, but the Dauphiness likewise. But the Dauphin has overturned the whole of this fine project, and has shewn so much obstinacy, that we despair of getting the better of him. You know I am to present the young Viscountess: I must take her to his apartments; I dread the moment: I wish I could decently dispense with this presentation. A propos, U 2 how

how is the Duchess? Has she been blooded this morning? You shall tell me of all that to-morrow. I expect you to dinner, as you promised,

I am your's heartily.

# LETTER XCVI.

To THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

ALAS! my dear Duke, did I not tell you that I had good reason to dread that presentation? You would not imagine to what a pitch that great ill-bred boy \* carried his rude behaviour. When we came to his apartments, he was busied, or pretended to be, in looking out of the window: although we were announced, he never quitted that posture: at length we went away without having been once honoured with a fingle look. My niece was extremely hurt

<sup>.</sup> The Dauphin.

at this behaviour; but she was amply recompensed by the marked attention which was paid to her by the King. She pleased him to a degree that disquieted me very much; however, I let nothing appear, lest his Majesty should be offended. I know also, that in shewing any ill humour, I should only increase an inclination which, to all appearance, is but transient. I am not yet certain that nothing ferious has past between them; I will feem to shut my eyes entirely; but I rely on you, my dear Duke, to affift me to keep this whole affair fecret. You know how effential that is to the prefervation of my influence. I am charmed at hearing that the Duchess is recovered; tell her I love her as well as you do.

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### LETTER XCVII.

To THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

I AM this moment informed, my dear Duke, that my husband has had an affair with the Parliament of Toulouse, on account of a riot, in which they say he played a distinguished part \*. I am not yet perfectly acquainted with the fact: endeavour to find out what it is, and take, I beseech you, the steps necessary on this occasion. We had banished him from this place, in order that his intemperance might be the less observable: and must it be that, let him be where he will, he is still to give us uneasiness? Good-night.

\*He harangued the mob; affected to speak to them in the King's name, and to treat with the rioters. The Parliament took offence: some were for severe measures; but interest prevailed. This affair was overlooked by Government.

## LETTER XCVIII.

FROM M. DE BOYNES, MINISTER OF THE MARINE.

MADAM.

THE diffatisfaction which the King shewed yesterday, has given me the greatest inquietude. It was purely at the desire of his Highness the Duke of Orleans that I took the step which produced the scene you were a witness to \*. May I hope, Madam, that you will persuade his Majesty to restore to me that savour with which he honoured

\* They had both secretly repaired to the apartments of Mad. du B. and solicited her to persuade the King to consent to the restoration of the Parliament. The King suddenly came in, upon which the D. of Orleans snatched a memorial, which they had been reading, out of the hands of M. de Boynes, in order to put it in his pocket. The King, however, perceiving his mistress change colour, desired to know the reason of it; and she told him what had passed. The King then said to the Duke of Orleans, "Cousin, if you wish that we continue good friends, meddle no more with this negotiation."—Then, addressing the Minister, "And you, M. de Boynes, I am surprised to find you here;—this is not your place;—go out."

me? I think I merit it by the zeal which I have ever shewn for his service. That which I have testified for you likewise, Madam, gives me some room for relying, on this occasion, upon your good offices. My gratitude shall equal the prosound respect with which I am, &c.

# LETTER XCIX.

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FROM THE DUKE OF ORLEANS.

I AM perfectly persuaded, Madam, that if our last interview had not been interrupted, you, far from saying that you wished not to meddle in the cause of the Parliaments, would have been the first to become their protectress, and carry to the feet of the Throne their justification, and the prayers of all France for their return. The plan which I intend to lay before you, ought to satisfy all the world, without causing the slightest discontent.

One man alone there is \* who content. would counteract this reconciliation, and that man is no less your enemy than the enemy of the State. As it would be too long to give you an account of it in this letter, you will oblige me by appointing a day and hour when I may wait on you, with M. de Boynes, to converse for some moments upon the subject. I am persuaded that, after this interview, you will not only adopt my ideas, but even affift me in curing the King of his prejudices. There may come a time, Madam, when you will thank me for having afforded you an opportunity of contributing to a revolution so much defired by all good citizens, whose gratitude will be flattering to you, and may not prove unuseful to you, along with the support of those tribunals that will be indebted to you for their restoration.

I am, &c.

<sup>.</sup> The Chancellor.

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# LETTER C.

To the Duke of Orleans.

MY LORD,

YOU know what reluctance I feel to meddle in affairs of the nature which you mention to me. I am not clear that you will be able to make me engage so heartily in that matter as you feem to imagine. But, as I do not wish to put you out of humour, I will expect you to-morrow at six. You see I can resuse your Highness nothing. I hope you will give me credit for my complaisance.

I am, &cc.

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# LETTER CI.

TO THE DUKE OF ORLEANS.

MY LORD.

WHAT has just happened must certainly have given you an ill opinion of my sidelity; and you imagine, perhaps, that my conduct upon this occasion has been concerted with the King. If my earnestness to reconcile his Majesty and you, is not sufficient to dispel your doubts, the simple statement of what has passed will not leave you room for any.

Owing to the negligence of one of my women, they were so stupid as to give me your letter while the King was present. Perceiving that it came from you, I wished to defer the perusal of it to another time; but his Majesty insisted that I should shew it to him. He was exceedingly displeased after having read it. At first he ordered me to refuse you the interview you required; but afterwards, after having observed a

X 2 filence

"Upon second thoughts, I would have you give the Duke of Orleans a meeting to"morrow: I will conceal myself in the room, and station myself so that I can hear what he has to say to you. Let him speak first, and answer him immediately." I was obliged to obey: the King himself dictated my letter; consequently, it is he alone who laid this trap for you \*. In vain did I attempt every thing that depended on myself to extricate you from it. I hope, then, that we shall not be on a less amicable footing, and that my Gros Pere will not be angry with me.

I am, &c.

The King, after hearing the discourse of the Duke of Orleans, came forth from his hiding-place, manifested his indignation, and even threatened him with disgrace, if he persisted in such practices. The Duke answered, that disgrace would be certainly a great missortune, but that he would bear it with fortitude in the cause of the public, which he would not abandon. Luckily, Mad. du B. brought about an immediate reconciliation between the Monarch and the Duke,

### LETTER CII.

## FROM COUNT DU BARRE'.

I WAS in hopes, my dear fifter, that upon the marriage of my fon with Mademoiselle de Tournon, you would have procured for me the ten thousand louis' which I asked for; for you know that the twenty thoufand which have been allowed me, were merely to pay my play-debts, and that I have nothing now remaining of that fum. At least, they ought to give me as much for a nuptial-present to the Chevalier\*, on his marriage with Mademoiselle de Fumel, if it is really to take place, for I am afraid that he will not succeed. That young lady seems to feel a difinclination to the match, notwithstanding the favours with which she is loaded by his Majesty. Her family insists that the Chevalier shall bear the name and arms of Fumel, a point which, however, had

<sup>\*</sup> Brother to Count du Barré.

been agreed on; in short they seem to start difficulties merely to gain time, and over-throw the whole proceeding. As it is of importance to us that it should take place, prevail upon the King, who has already shewn an inclination for it, to press the conclusion. A single word from him will remove all obstacles.

I am yours entirely, &c.

### LETTER CIII.

To Count WILLIAM DU BARRE'.

ALL this fine history which you have told us, has much the air of a romance, invented to excuse your return to this place, notwithstanding your own promises, and the orders you received \*. If I consent to wink at this

\* He said that he had received a threatening letter, in which he was ordered to leave 50,000 livres in a place described: that, having at first taken no notice, he received injunctions more marked and peremptory; and that this was what prevented him from remaining at Toulouse.

conduct,

conduct, know, that it is only on condition that we shall not hear any talk about you; otherwise, you will compel me to lay aside all ceremony.

# LETTER CIV.

FROM M. DE VOLTAIRE.

MADAM.

Ferney, January 3, 1774.

MONSIEUR de la Borde tells me that you have ordered him to kiss me on both cheeks, as from you:

Quoi! deux baisers sur la sin de ma vie!

Quel passeport vous daignez m'envoyer!

Deux, c'en est trop! adorable Egerie ;

Je serois mort de plaisir au premier.

He has shewn me your picture; do not be

The nymph Egeria inspired Numa, the wise law-giver of the Romans; and, by a strain of adulation which admits of no excuse, M. de Voltaire gives us to understand, that Mad. du B. had, in the same manner, inspired the King in all his legislative operations.

angry,

angry, Madam, if I take the liberty of returning it your two kiffes:

Vous ne pouvez empêcher cet hommage, Foible tribut de quiconque à des yeux. C'est au mortels d'adorer votre image, L'original étoit fait pour les Dieux.

I have heard several passages of M. de la Borde's Pandora\*. They appeared to me to be worthy of your protection. The favour bestowed on talents, is the only thing which can increase the lustre which adorns you.

Deign, Madam, to accept the profound respect of an old hermit, whose heart has scarce any other sentiment than that of gratitude.

<sup>•</sup> An opera of M. de Voltaire, which M. de la Borde had fet to music, and which the former wished to have acted under the auspices of Mad. du Barré.

# LETTER CV.

To M. DE VOLTAIRE.

NOTHING, Sir, can be more gallant and agreeable than the letter which I have just received from you. I reckon that it was the commission I gave to M. de la Borde, which procured so flattering a degree of homage on your part. I mean to place it at the end of the apotheosis of King Petau\*. Those two pieces united will serve to acquit you in the eyes of the public and of posterity, of the reproach universally cast upon you of partiality and self-contradiction.

I am, &c.

\* At the commencement of Mad. du Barré's elevation, M. de V. made a poem which bore this title, and in which he spoke of the King and the Favourite in the most satirical and indecent manner. He must have been much humbled by the letter to Mad. du B. which nothing but the meanest statery could have dictated, and by the answer which she wrote to it.

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### LETTER CVI.

To M. DE MAUPEOU.

I AM very much surprised, Sir, that the seal has not been put to Zamore's patent, which has lain in your office since yesterday\*. Is this negligence an effect of that zeal which you oftentationsly pretend for the service of his Majesty? I should have thought you more ready to seize opportunities of paying court to your Royal Master. I expect, Sir, that this affair will be concluded to-day, else I shall be obliged to complain to the King.

I am, &c.

\* This Zamore was a little Negro-boy, on whom Mad. du B. lavished extraordinary caresses. One day, when his pleasant tricks had put the King into high spirits, she requested that some mark of the Royal savour should be conferred on him. "Go, said the King, I appoint him Gover-" nor of the Castle and Pavilion of Lucienne, with 600 livres "falary." His Majesty immediately ordered the patent so be made out, and what amused Mad. du B. was, the necessity for the Chancellor to put the seal to it.

LETTER

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# LETTER CYII.

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TO THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

FOR this once, my dear Duke, the Marquis de Montegnard is dismissed in good earnest. The lettre de cachet is signed, and he is to receive it this moment: so we have no longer any fear of a revocation. You are going to be completely contented, and I myself am very much so, at having succeeded in an affair which you had so much at heart. All that we have now to do, is to expel the Chancellor: but that will be not fo easy. The King is so well satisfied at being no longer affailed by the Black Robes, that he is attached more than ever to him who has rid him of their remonstrances. Mark out for me, my dear Duke, the plan which I must follow, to cure the King of this prepoffession, and I will be implicitly governed by your advice. But first and foremost, we must attend to a matter extremely Y 2 preffing

pressing and of the highest moment, namely, the War Department, which I positively wish you to have, and for which I will leave nothing unattempted. Meanwhile I kiss your hand, and am most truly, &c.

# LETTER CVIII.

FROM THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

I PERCEIVE, my dear Countess, that it is useless for us to persist in endeavouring to persuade the King of the Chancellor's maladministration; we shall never succeed. We must have recourse to another device, by which we may equally well attain our object. Affect to come over by degrees to his Majesty's opinion; but endeavour to infinuate to him, by little and little, that he will never reap all the advantages which may be derived from the operations of M. de Maupeou, as long as that Minister remains

mains in office. You may assign for it a reason, the truth of which is manifest; that is, the marked aversion which all the Princes, the Peers, and the public entertain for him. I, on my part, will seize every opportunity of seconding you. Besides, I will watch his conduct so narrowly, and will lay so many snares for him, that I have no doubt of his soon furnishing us with fresh weapons against him,

I am, &c.

# LETTER CIX.

To M. DE BOYNES.

YOU will oblige me, Sir, by lending a favourable ear to the request which M. d'Abbadie, the bearer of this note, has to make to you\*. You have given the Croix

<sup>\*</sup> The Sieur d'Abbadie, Commissary of the Marine, who had never seen any sea-service, took it into his head, like so many others, to make use of the Favourite's interest to obtain some

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de St. Louis to two of his comrades: he wishes to obtain the same favour, and I shall take it kind of you, if you will grant it to him upon my recommendation.

I am, &c.

# LETTER CX.

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### FROM THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

I KNOW not, my dear Countess, what reafons could at present engage you to undertake fo warmly the interests of the Prince of Condé. However, since you desire it, I will make no opposition to the King's creating in his favour the post of Grand Master of the Artillery, and I will even second you, if you think it necessary. I own to you, neverthe-

fome marks of favour. He accordingly came to Paris with a parroquet, which he found means to present to Mad. du B. who thought the bird handsome, and well worth a Croix de St. Louis. The readiness with which this favour was accorded, proves in what dependence she held the Minister.

lefs,

less, that I have some doubts of your succeeding in this negociation, because I know that the same favour is solicited by the Count de Provence\*.

I am, &c.

The D. d'Aiguillon had no more desire than the Marquis de Monteynard, to let the Artillery slip out of his Department. But, more artful than his predecessor, and in order not to disoblige either the Prince or the Favourite, he had engaged the Count de Provence to solicit for that place. He knew the indecisive character of the King sofficiently well; to be certain that, in the embarrassment into which the two candidates would throw him, the end would be that he would not give the place to any one. He succeeded in his point, without leaving room either for the Prince or Mad. du B. to take offence.

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LETTER

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# LETTER CXI.

FROM M. DORAT.

MADAM,

IT is with grief I learn that certain verses have been attributed to me; which I cannot be too earnest in disavowing. I am assured that a production, intitled An Epistle to Margot, has come to your hands, and that some person has had the malice to accuse me of being the author of it. Whatever it be, Madam, it merits your deepest indignation \*. If my character of a man of letters gave me any claim upon your beneficence, I would entreat you to take all the necessary steps towards discovering the guilty person: you would be soon revenged, and my justification would be complete.

I am, &c.

LETTER

<sup>\*</sup> It is faid that M. Dorat is really the author of the Epiftle here alluded to. He was afraid of the Bastile, and made a recantation unworthy of the original.

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LIVING in a country where men have not renounced the faculty of thinking, and where, without running any rifk, they may exercise it in the manner most agreeable to them, I may confidently declare to you that I am the author of a little work called Le Gazettier Cuirasse. If that book, which has certainly come to your hands, has had the merit of affording you a few moments amusement, I cannot but applaud myself for having fent it into the world. Your suffrage is one of those by which I ought to be most flattered. I am on the point of publishing another work, intitled, " Secret Memoirs of a Lady distinguished in Public Life, or Essays on the Adventures of the Countels Du Barré, from ber Cradle to the Bed of Honour." I imagine, Madam, that even if I had not added the fecond part of the title, you would eafily guess that

that you were alluded to in the first. Be it what it may, I thought it became me to communicate my defign to you, before I put it in execution; fince, as you have manifested, on several occasions, a decided taste for the arts and sciences, it might be possible that you would defire to be the fole possessor of a manuscript which I have endeavoured to render interesting, and which might appear to you to be of some value. This whim would only cost you 50,000 livres. This price, which perhaps you will think too high, is nevertheless very moderate. You cannot think, Madam, what a heavy expence I have been at, in order to procure the necesfary materials. The later anecdotes of your life, particularly, have stood me in a great deal of money. I have been obliged to pay, in hard gold, for the details of your most secret interviews with his Most Christian Majesty; and of your tricks to get rid of or deceive those who watch you, when you recompense yourself for the King's debility, with your good friend the Duke d'Aiguillon. or, for want of him, with little Zamore. In fine, Madam, be affured that this work is complete,

complete, and that it possesses every quality necessary to insure a rapid sale. If you have an inclination to purchase it, I will put the manuscript into the hands of whoever will, on your behalf, pay me the fum already mentioned: but, should it be your intention not to make this bargain, permit me at least, Madam, to publish it under your auspices. I fhould then be certain of the favourable reception it would meet with from the public, to which you belong. I think I deserve that you should at least grant me this latter favour, as a reward for the defire which I have to immortalize you, and for the scrupulous attention with which I have adhered to truth. I am, with the most profound respect, &c.

connection with the Vileopatel de Barré, be with properties of the service of the

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## LETTER CXIV.

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To THE DUKE D' AIGUILLON.

MY LORD,

I HAVE just received an infernal letter from London. You yourself shall judge of it; I inclose it to you. Don't lose a moment, but employ every method possible to prevent the publication of the execrable libel with which we are threatened. You are as much interested in it as I am. Besides, what the author intimates in his letter, I am persuaded that, if he has the least suspicion of your connection with the Viscountess du Barré, he will not fail to mention it, as an article that is not the least interesting in your life.

I am, my Lord, yours, &c.

# LETTER CXV.

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FROM THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

I HAD engaged, my dear Countess, the English Ambassador to write to his Court with respect to Morande: but his answer was, that that was to no purpose, and that the King assuredly would not suffer any thing which was contrary to the rights of the English nation. Besides, he observed to me, very justly, that that man was like a hungry dog, who is only to be appeased by throwing him a bone. However, I have determined upon a measure somewhat different, and have just dispatched, with some attendants of the police, a man whom I judge to be a fit instrument to execute my design. I hope his efforts will prove successful \*. I

<sup>\*</sup> The D. d'Aiguillon had fent to London the Sieur Bellanger, who had for his affociates some agents of the Police, such as Receveur, Cambert, Finet, &c. These endeavoured to connect themselves with Morande, in order to seize his person dexterously, and convey him back to France. Morande, more artful than them, and perceiving their intension.

believe, my dear Countess, that, since our last explanation, you have no longer any thing to reproach me with. Be assured, that what you call my assiduities about the young Viscountess, will always be confined to what is honourable, and to the respect I owe to the rank which she enjoys here, to the alliance she has just contracted, and to the favour with which she is honoured by the King.

I am ever, &c.

tion, affected to seem ignorant of the design; commenced a friendship with them, and borrowed from each of them thirty louis d'ors. He then sounded the alarm against them, and these spies being violently suspected by the English, were obliged to hide, until they could get an opportunity of repassing the sea.—The D. d'Aiguillon afterwards sent over M. Creaudeau de Chemilli, Treasurer of the Maréchausses, under pretence of purchasing some horses in England. He was commissioned to offer 40,000 livres for the manuscript; but this negociation did not succeed.—At length another agent was employed, who gave Morande fifty thousand livres down, and insured to him from the French Government, under the security of a London banker, a pension of 2001. a year, with a reversion of one moiety to his wife at his death.

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### LETTER CXVI.

FROM M. DE BEAUMONT, ARCHBISHOP

OF PARIS.

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MADAM.

January 15, 1774.

IT is one of the duties of my office to enlighten those who are entrusted to my pastoral care, and to employ every method which charity, regulated by prudence, can inspire, to bring back to the ways of truth all those who have wandered out of it. You cannot suppose, Madam, that I am the only person ignorant of a scandal which is unfortunately but too public. If the irregularities of a private person appear distressing to me, judge how great must be my affliction, when I reflect on those into which you are drawing a Prince, whose many excellent qualities render him in so eminent a degree praiseworthy. Your triumph in the eyes of the world is, undoubtedly, very flattering. I even admit, that there are few persons of virtue so solid

as not to be dazzled with it, and of a courage so heroic as to make a voluntary renunciation of it. But am I to think, Madam, that this sublime effort were above your firength? If your attachment to the King be fincere, would it not be giving him a thining proof of it, to employ your ascendant over him in bringing him back to the way of falvation, and in encouraging him by your own example? Could you confider in the light of an humiliating exile, a voluntary retreat, which, in reconciling you with Heaven, would lead you to the enjoyment of the purest pleasures that can be tasted here on earth, of peace with yourself, and of esteem with all the world? You would merit it by the best title, fince you would have restored to the State its Sovereign, and to Religion a Christian and Protector. Whatever may be the corrupt influence of that tempest of dissipation in which you are whirled about, I cannot think, Madam, that it has totally flifled every fentiment of religion in your breaft. Descend from it for a moment; and, if you are not deaf to that voice which ought to - make

make itself be heard, I doubt not that my wishes will, ere long, prove successful, and that I may propose as a pattern to his people, a King who cannot doubt of my respect and attachment to his person.

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## LETTER CXVII.

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TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF PARIS.

MY LORD, January 16, 1774.

I BEHOLD with pleasure your attachment to the King; but, notwithstanding what you fay to me, I believe mine to be as fincere. It is true, I shew it to him after a different manner, one, perhaps, better adapted to persuade him. I should never have imagined that you would address yourfelf to me, in order to effect the revolution you desire. Your zeal would deserve, undoubtedly, the highest encomiums, if no Aa motives

motives merely human, had interfered with it: but I am so much the better founded in my opinion that it is not altogether difinterested, as I am informed of your defign to marry the King to an Archduchess; and I am aware that should this alliance take place through your interpolition, it would certainly procure you the most important advan-If I have not yet the courage necesfary to fecond your pious intentions, I will at least confess, my Lord, that your letter has made a forcible impression on me, whatever may have been faid to me by certain persons to whom I have shewn it. To encourage my alarmed conscience, and perfuade me that I am not as criminal as I feared I was, I am given to understand, that the most serious of my faults would be no more than peccadillos: if I had, like you, my Lord, the advantage of being directed by one of those sublime theologians \*, who, by means of a certain direction of the intention, have found the fecret of making you fin in the most agreeable manner in the

<sup>\*</sup> The Jesuit.

world with Madam de Moiran \*, without your apostolic soul partaking, in the least, of the desilement of the body: In fine, my Lord, though I may not have thoroughly comprehended every thing that has been said to me on this subject, I thought, however, that I could perceive that there is a method of entering into the way of salvation more easy, and better adapted to my weakness than that which you propose to me. If this be the case, you will oblige me by communicating it to me, and you shall see me seriously set about my conversion. I am, my Lord, with respect, yours, &c.

Superior of the hospital of La Salpetriere, between whom and the Archbishop we are perfectly convinced nothing passed but what was honourable. It is true, the world, which is very wicked, judged otherwise. His Grandeur's letter, surely, did not deserve such a sharp answer, and we know that that holy man was much afflicted at it.

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### of the betrailement of the box of the week now LETTER CXVIII.

FROM M. DE MAUPEOU.

MADAM, Paris, February 1, 1774.

dels travo beneficiental

THOUGH I have always entertained for you all possible respect, the greatest esteem, and the most fincere attachment; though, fo far from having ever attempted any thing inimical to your interests, I, on the contrary confidered it my duty to anticipate your wishes on every occasion, yet I have been represented to you in so unfavourable a point of view, as to determine you to try every method to prevail upon his Majesty to withdraw from me the confidence with which he honours me. I know it, Madam, and am not offended with you, because you have been imposed upon: but what sensibly distreffes me, is to fee that you have blindly placed your confidence and esteem in perfons who are unworthy of them. Duke d'Aiguillon, who owes every thing to you,

you, is betraying you; he wishes to displace you, and introduce, in your room, the Baroness de Neukerque. In order to fix this lady firmly in the post for which he destines her, he has formed the defign of uniting her to the King by a fecret marriage. Informed of this whole plot, and imagining that you could not give credit to so black a piece. of treachery, unless I added to my information an unanswerable proof, I have employed every engine to procure one, and have been lucky enough to succeed. The Duke d'Aiguillon's letter, which you will find here enclosed, will tell you more than you may wish to learn. It is my desire, Madam, that you may meet with friends more faithful.

I am, &c.

LETTER FROM THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON TO THE BARONNESS DE NEUKERQUE, ENCLOSED IN THE FOREGOING.

YOU allow me, Madam, to give you advice; you even ask it. Flattered with the confidence you repose in me, I am going to answer

answer you with all the fincerity I am capa-

The station of mistress to the King is undoubtedly a very splendid one, but, what: ever may be its sweets, believe, Madam, that it is not exempt from troubles, and that it is continually more or less exposed to a most melancholy reverse. I am perfuaded, that, honoured as you are with the King's favour, the obstacles you will have to vanquish in order to bring about a secret marriage with his Majesty, will perhaps prove less powerful than those which might present themselves to your supplanting the present favourite. Supposing even that you were to encounter a host of difficulties, the difference between those two situations does not leave you room to hefitate. Form, then, a plan of conduct which tends to this object, and depart not from it. I am forry to find that you have been too complaifant to the King at the secret interview of yesterday; favours obtained too easily may, in this Prince, exhausted by debauchery, cool even the most ardent inclination. To fix his natural inconstancy, it is necessary to irritate

his

his passions, by a resistance managed with so much art as not wholly to repulse him. I believe him likewise to be in the predicament of those old libertines, who in their latter days become devout, are eafily alarmed, and have fometimes their uneafineffes and their scruples, upon which it is requifite to tranquillize them. You may, Madam, very successfully make use of this last discovery. Let your whole foul he in a manner modelled upon his; affect to have the same fears, the same remorfe that he has; it is an almost infallible method for succeeding in your defign. I will see you to-morrow at five: I shall first go to the King: perhaps there you may happen to be the subject of the conversation. If so, I shall certainly not hurt your interests,

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I am, &c.

# LETTER CXIX.

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To THE DUKE D'AIGUILLON.

February 2, 1774.

WHAT then! is it on you, my Lord, that I must cast the bitterest reproaches! you, whom I faved from the hand of the executioner! you, to whole paffion I have been weak enough to liften! you, whom I have loaded with benefits, with honours, and with dignities! you, who ought to kiss the very ground I tread on, have had the baseness to deceive me, and with your own hands prefent to the King a woman to supplant your benefactreis! I know it, I have the proof of it in your own hand-writing, and I can yet scarce be persuaded of it, so unparalleled does this act of perfidy appear to me! The monster, who, from the bottom of his den, at London, calumniates and tears me to pieces, is a god compared to you! Despair! rage! fury! take possession of my foul-I burn to be revenged-I am

fo agitated at this moment, that I know not yet what weapons I shall employ. In the excess of my wrath, I will sly this instant to the King, confess to him your crime and my own, shew him your letter to the Baroness de Neukerque, and implore him to punish us both. I will pursue you even to hell! and if there are suries for the torment of monsters, I will deliver you to their rage! In short, picture to your imagination every thing of which an injured woman can be capable—I will employ it \*.

The Duke d'Aiguillon, sensible of the dreadful consequences which the resentment of Mad. du Barré might occasion, hurried to her apartments, threw himself at her seet,
consessed his fault which he would not deny, made the best
excuse he could, and was fortunate enough to appease her
whom he had so cruelly offended. In fine, he obtained his
pardon, on promising to abandon Mad, de Neukerque, and
to meddle no more in her affairs. He effectually kept his
word.

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## La saile L'E T'T E Rest CXX. le la saile ca

To the Abbe' de Beauvais, then Canon of Noyon, and King's Preacher, now Bishop of Senez.

Holy-Thursday Evening, 1774.

YOU have preached, Sir, with extreme insolence. Instead of employing mildness, charity, moderation in your fermon, you have had the affurance to defame our Monarch in the presence of his people; you attacked none but him, although he was the only person whom it became you to treat tenderly, and whose weaknesses you should in some measure have excused to his subjects. It was not, believe me, christian charity that inspired you; ambition, and the desire of advancing yourfelf in the world, were the fole motives of your conduct. Were I in the King's place, I would banish you to fome remote village, that you might there learn to be more circumspect, and to avoid stirring up the people against the Princes whom LETTER

whom God has given them for Governors. I cannot tell what his Majesty means to do; but you have presumed too much upon his goodness. You did not expect to receive rules of conduct from me, rules derived from the true spirit of christianity and morality: try, however, to profit by them. This is my sermon: I hope it will be of service to you\*.

covered, every

### I am, &c.

\* The Abbé de Beauvais, a man of obscure birth, had refolved on making his fortune while preacher to his Majesty,
to obtain a Bishoprick, or be sent to the Bastile. For this
purpose he adopted a very extraordinary mode of proceeding; he presumed to thunder from the pulpit against the
scandalous life of Louis XV.; he particularly alluded to his
passion for Mad. du B. in a glowing picture of the conduct
of King Solomon, the comparison to whom was striking.
Mad. du B. was too well convinced that she also was exhibited in this picture; a circumstance which gave her very
great offence. That same evening she wrote the above letter
to the preacher. She afterwards endeavoured to incense the
King against him. But Louis XV. was good-natured; he
was not angry; he even apologized for the preacher, by saying, that he had only been working at his trade.

There is an anecdote related, that this Abbé having one day spoken vehemently against those vicious old men, who, amidst the frost of age, preserve the impure slame of concupiscence, his Majesty after sermon, turning to the Marechal de Richelieu, said, "Well, Richelieu, I think the preacher "has been throwing stones into your garden." "Yes,

Bb 2 "Sire

#### LETTER CXXI.

FROM DAUBERVAL, THE OPERA-DANCER.

MADAM .

Paris, April 10, 1774.

WHAT obligations am I not under to you, and in what words shall I make known my gratitude? Cloathed, covered, overwhelmed with your beneficence, I have just experienced at your hands a favour which is, in fact, a unique, and of which there is no example to

"Sire," answered the Marechal, "and he has thrown them "with such force, that some of them have rebounded into the park of Versailles." The Abbé gained his point. The Bishoprick of Senez was vacant; he was appointed to it.

\* Dauberval, who was ruined, threatened his creditors, and the public, that he would go off to Thessin. Mad. du B. thought so useful a subject should not be lost. She asked him how much was necessary to settle his affairs. He said 50,000 livres. She immediately set on soot an assessment at Court, and made the gathering herself in proportion to each person's abilities. None could offer less than sive louis, but she sometimes exacted ten, sisteen, twenty, and even sive-and-twenty. By this management, the sum was soon collected, and the fears and lamentations of the Amateurs were calmed.

be found in this kingdom, with respect to a man who gains his livelihood merely by the exercise of some talent\*. I was plunged in an abys of debt; the improvident conduct too general in our line, the diffipation in which we live, the luxury into which we are drawn by the brilliant fociety by whom our company is courted, and high play, which is now become univerfally a kind of necessary, were the natural causes of that derangement in my affairs. This gave me but little claim to the indulgence of the public. Tormented, then, by my creditors, and incapable of fatisfying their demands, I had taken the refolution to quit my native country, and go to Ruffia, whither I was invited, a climate, which, rigorous as it is, would have abated of its inclemency in my favour. You, Madam, however, were unwilling that a foreign land should be enriched by the loss which France sustained, a trivial loss undoubtedly, but which you have had the condescension to exaggerate. You were of opinion, that it

<sup>◆</sup> Un simple bomme de talens. The reader is, doubtless, much diverted with the oratory and puppyism of this simple man of talents.

would be shameful, that, on account of 50,000 livres, a dancer so precious should be fuffered to depart. (These, Madam, were your expressions, and I should blush in repeating them, were there any room for modesty where one is honoured by a suffrage fuch as yours.) But, what might well turn a head of more folidity than mine, is the energy with which you prevailed upon the whole Court to contribute to the re-establishment of my fortune. Affuredly you could, by your own fingle generofity, have faved me from this shipwreck; it would have been but as a little rill escaped from a mighty river; it would have been more delightful to my heart to have had but one protectress. What am I faying? I have, in reality, but one, and it is to you I must consider myself as indebted for the bounty of fo many illustrious personages. You were pleased to fay, that, as all were my admirers, it was the duty of all to concur in keeping me here. You set on foot a subscription, and seemed to open your gates only in proportion to the zeal shewn by your visitors to put down their names in my behalf; it was a downright tax which

which you levied upon all those who came to pay their homage to you. Formerly, the Marchioness of Pompadour, that charming woman, who was your fore-runner in the folendid career which you have entered upon, whom the arts have immortalized, because the always cherished and supported them, made a lottery for Geliotte\*; balls were given for Granval+; Molé had a benefit play 1; great men, all of them infinitely fuperior to me, both by their talents, and by the degree of excellence to which they had carried them. It was referved for you. - Madam, to look upon the loss of me as a general calamity, and to have recourse, in order to keep me here, to one of those extraordinary imposts which alarmed patriotism pays with an eager emulation. My devotion, now more absolute than ever, to your amusement, is the only manner in which it is possible for me to testify my gratitude. It is the business of men of letters, it is the business of the artists, to celebrate you in a style more worthy of you. What ought not genius to

LETTER

<sup>\*</sup> An Opera-finger. † An actor. † Ditto.

expect from so tutelar a divinity, when you deign to do fo much for me who gains his livelihood merely by the exercise of his talent, whose only recommendation is, that he has the happiness to contribute to your entertainment! Already have painting, foulpture, engraving, disputed for the glory of transmitting to astonished Europe the seducing graces of your person; already have the Muses crowned you with their garlands; already has the patriarch of literature, the Prince of our poets and philosophers, the venerable fage of Ferney, fallen profrate at your feet, and offered up to you, in his own person, the adorations both of Parnassus and the Portico. May his example encourage those whose tongues are held captive by refpect! May it give birth to a universal concert of your praises! and may the sceptre of the arts and of philosophy, dropt from the hands of the adorable Marchioness whose loss they yet deplore, pass into your's, Madam, and render you a second Minerva! I am, with the most profound respect, &c.

An Opera-Luger, and plant of the

## ETTER CXXII.

FROM THE DUKE DE NIVERNOIS.

MADAM. Paris, April 12, 1774.

COULD not refuse to your pressing solicitations the five-and-twenty louis d'ors; which you demanded as my part of the collection that you had taken upon you to make for Dauberval. I cannot, however, conceal from you, that that little fum was destined for a gentleman in distress, a difbanded officer, who has a family to maintain, and who has been foliciting these many years for a moderate pension. As you have deprived him of the small consolation which I had referved for him, it stands upon you, Madam, to procure him some recompence. I enclose his memorial in this letter; I have no doubt that it will make an impression on you, and that the humanity which you have fhewn on fo many occasions, will prevail on you to lend your aid, and give fuccess to the application#. I am, &c.

Mad. du B. feeling the full force of a request of this nature on fuch an occasion, took charge of the Memorial

### LETTER CXXIII.

To the Marchioness de Montrable.

IT will not be in my power, my dear mother, to go to see you to-morrow, as I had promised you. The King's situation does not fuffer me to quit him. Since the death of the Marquis de Chavelin, and that of the Maréchal d'Armentieres, he has discovered a degree of melancholy which gives me much uneafiness. It has been encreased by that curfed fermon of the Abbede Beauvais. whose insolence it was not my fault that his Majesty did not punish. I have just proposed an excursion to Trianon\*. We shall endeavour to restore tranquillity to the King's breast, and to put him in better spirits. I will see you, my dear mother, as soon as I can. You know what pleasure I have in repeating to you the affurances of my most perfect attachment.

with a good grace. The gentleman, who but for the ingenious device of his benefactor, might have folicited in vain, is now returned to his family, to which he has brought home joy, and a little more ease in point of circumstances,

LETTER

<sup>\*</sup> It was this unlucky excursion to Trianon that occasioned the King's death.

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### LETTER CXXIV.

To THE MARCHIONESS DE MONTRABLE.

THE King, my dear mother, has decidedly the small-pox. I did all I could to prevail on him to remain at Trianon; but La Martiniere taking advantage of the ascendant which the King's feeble condition had given him, has determined him to return to Ver-I never leave his bed-fide. tuation does not feem to me yet a while to be dangerous, as he is not affected by it. But, at his time of life, things may alter every moment, especially in a malady of that I have been fortunate enough to inspire him with a confidence in Bordeau, my physician; it is he attends him in chief, along with Le Monnier. At first, it was recommended that the facrament should be administered to him; to this I had a very ftrong difinclination. Bordeau opposed it vehemently, and had the good fortune to prevent it, by declaring that that apparatus often

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I am, &c.

### LETTER CXXV.

### To the Marchioness de Montrable,

THE stroke has at last been given, my dear mother. The King, sinding himself very ill, ordered the Duchess d'Aiguillon to be told that she would do him a pleasure in taking me home to her house. Of course, we set out for Ruel, from which place I write to you. His Majesty, before he received the viaticum, declared by his Grand-Almoner, that he was forry to have given scandal to his subjects; that he desired to live thenceforth only for the maintenance of the faith, of religion, and of the happiness of his people. The promises of a dying man are of no great signification: they are all alike, till

kill health be re-established. Should the King have that happiness, I am persuaded that my situation will not alter. Adieu, my dear mother.

I am, &cc.

P. S. As I was just going to send away my letter, I learnt that the patient's case is less dangerous than it was.

### LETTER CXXVI.

-to and briefly the it applies and the

### TO THE SAME.

I BEGIN, my dear mother, to augur ill, with respect to the King's situation. Yesterday I had an uninterrupted succession of visitors the whole day: to-day I have hardly received two. Add to this, that the Abbé Terray, to whom I sent for 300,000 livres, has eluded my demand. Should the King recover, I will be revenged for this impertinence.—I hear an equipage, I must go and see whose it is.

It is all over, my dear mother: the King is no more. The odious Duke de la Vrilliere is come to announce it to me, by prefenting me with a Lettre de Cachet, in which I am ordered to repair to the Convent of Pont aux Dames near Meaux\*. I treated him with the utmost haughtiness. That insolent creature, who yesterday grovelled at my feet, to-day seems to triumph in my disgrace. I am provoked at the retreat to which I am condemned, and still more at the manner in which I am to live there. One waiting-woman is all that I am allowed; I am forbidden to see any one, and

<sup>\*</sup> This lettre de cachet was like a thunder-bolt to Mad. Du Barré. She exclaimed with her native energy: "Fogh! on this fine reign which begins with a lettre de cachet!" She reproached, in the bitterest manner, the Duke de la Vrilliere, for having taken upon him that commission, and treated him with the utmost contempt. The lettre de cachet, however, was not severe. Mad. du B. was in possession of secrets of state, and it was prudent to prevent a woman of her levity from divulging them. The King said in the letter, that reasons of state obliged him to order her to repair to the convent; that he knew how highly she had been honoured with the favour of his Grandsather, and that, at the earliest opportunity, measures should be taken to render her exile less unpleasant, and to provide her with an honourable pension if her situation should require it.

to send or receive any letters without first shewing them to the Superior. I have just sent to look for my agent; I will give him some orders, of which he shall render an account to you. Take care and see that he executes them, and that I be pillaged as little as possible. I will write to you, if I can, as soon as I shall be arrived at my prison. Adieu, my dear mother; I have so many arrangements to make, and am in such a passion, that I fear I shall depart without having been able to think of any thing.

We here conclude the collection of the Letters of Madame Du Barré. Some more have come to our hands fince her banishment; but as they relate only to domestic affairs, we think it unnecessary to communicate them to the public.

THE END.

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